

Hafa Adai!

NMI Museum of History and Culture reopens. **PAGE 3**

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CCC to IPI: Pay up; maintain working capital for payroll

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board unanimously adopted yesterday an order requiring Imperial Pacific International (CNMI)

» **IPI assures employees will be paid, hires Guam company to take care of payroll services**

LLC to maintain sufficient working capital to pay three months' payroll in a bank in the CNMI or the United States.

At a monthly meeting held at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, the commissioners also approved an order requiring IPI to settle its payable accounts and to appoint a chief executive officer.

This developed as IPI Trea-
See CCC on Page 4

Team CNMI breaks into national NSDA qualifier

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

For the first time, members of Team CNMI advanced out of main event preliminary rounds, breaking into a qualifying round in the annual National Speech and Debate Association National Competition.

See TEAM on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 25, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	226	5	231
Recovered	174	2	176
Active	45	5	50
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	11,223		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,169**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

PSS withdraws TRO against Torres, Atalig

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Public School System and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada are no longer pursuing a temporary restraining order/preliminary injunction in their lawsuit against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and



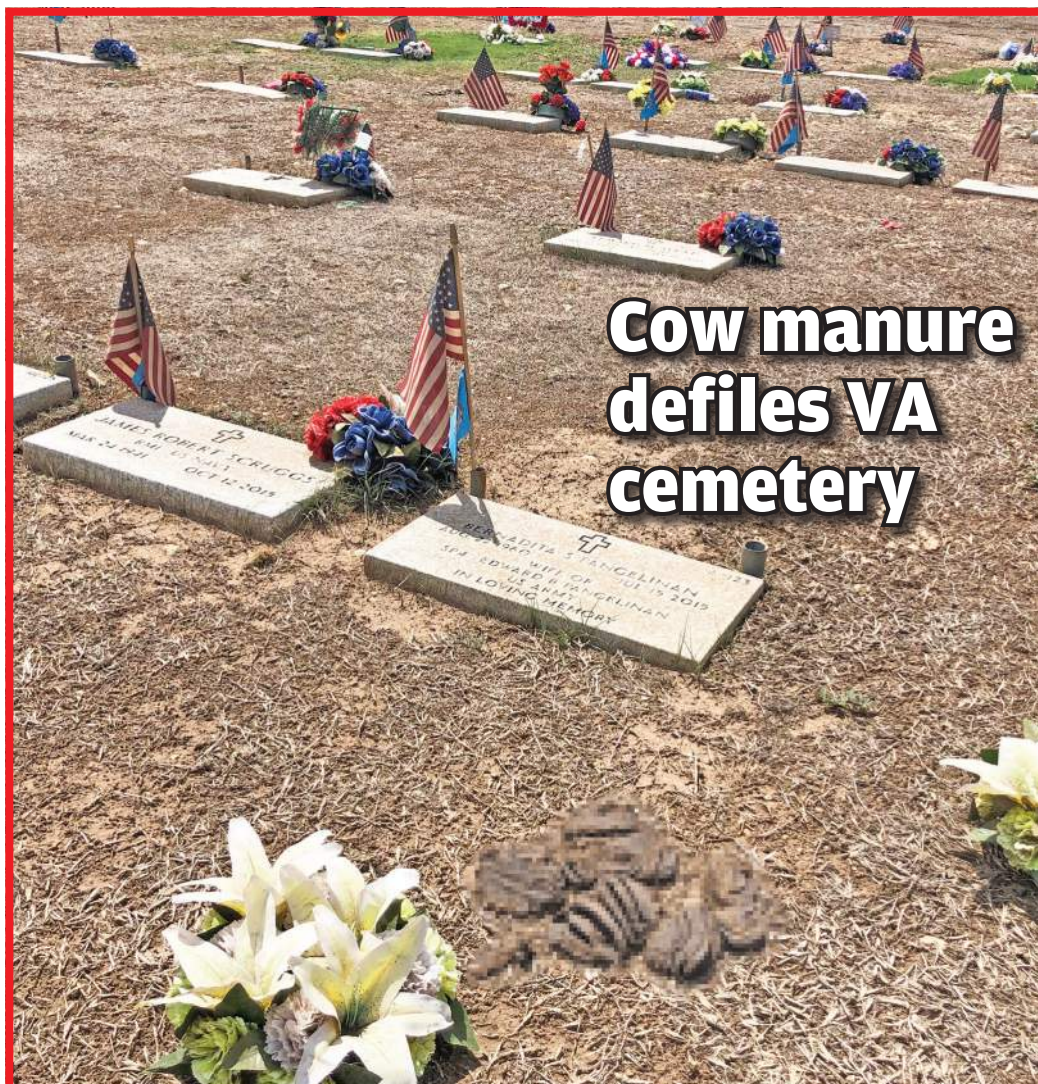
Mocanu



Ada

Finance Secretary David Atalig. PSS and Ada, through counsel Tiberius Mocanu, informed Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at Tuesday's status

See PSS on Page 4



By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

"How would you feel if you just buried your loved one yesterday and the next day you go to visit and you find cow manure right on his/her headstone? How does that make you feel?"

This is the question that Stanley T. Iakopo, executive officer of the Veterans' Affairs Office, asked during a meeting with ranchers at the Department of Public Land in Dandan.

According to Iakopo, cattle manure has been a problem for months on end and families who have loved ones buried at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi have called his office many times about

See COW on Page 4

Cow manure is seen at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. The photo has been intentionally distorted.

KRIZEL TUAZON

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Paire' Corner opens on July 3, giving more life to the business scene in San Jose, Tinian.

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A coronavirus resurgence is wiping out two months of progress in the United States.

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WORLD

The head of the Arab League warns that Israel's annexation could ignite "a religious war."

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Local

Rotary Club donates \$5K to NMTI

The Rotary Club of Saipan last Wednesday donated \$5,000 to the Northern Mariana Technical Institute that was used to purchase two welding equipment, a plasma cutter, and two welding tables.

“This is very important for the students [since], instead of sending them off-island to

learn, they are able to do it here. We always want to try and help because it is important to keep them here due to the cost and financial support going off-island to learn,” said Rotary Club president Maria Ayuyu. “We are very happy that we are able to donate for the students. I want

to thank you for what you do and when you are working, please always be safe. Safety first.”

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said that NMTI students will surely look forward to using the new equipment. “I know students will be smiling to be

working with new equipment on hand,” she added.

NMTI student Kaito Ynai said the Rotary Club donation means that they will be able “to do more projects in the future and to enhance our skills.”

As Ayuyu’s term will be ending this month as club president, she assures “that upcoming president Sonya Dancoe will continue and

maintain their relationship with the trade school and any other activities within the community.” (Chevy Alipio)

June declared as Pride Month in a first virtual proclamation

The CNMI Office of the Governor held its first virtual proclamation ceremony last Monday, streaming the entire ceremony that declared June as Pride Month, via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios led the proclamation signing ceremony, saying, “Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and I urge the entire Commonwealth to come together and support our LGBTQ+ community, recognize their many contributions to our society, and promote equality and liberty for all.”

Every year in June the LGBTQ+ community celebrates the month as a celebration of gender equality. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres became the first governor in CNMI history and in the Pacific region to proclaim Pride Month in the Marianas in 2016.

“Pride Month is a global celebration ... We need to create a loving, accepting, and nurturing environment especially for our LGBTQ+ community,” added Palacios.

Press secretary Kevin Bau-

tista, who acted as emcee at the virtual proclamation signing, said “This year, within the context and shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, Pride events around the world take on a deeper meaning connecting the causes of racism and discrimination with love, justice, and equality for all.”

Pride Marianas Youth founder Jennifer Maritita said, “This is the first-ever CNMI Pride Month. Last year the CNMI only celebrated Pride Week. We have online events because of social distancing and virtual creative ways to reach our youth.”

“We are going to repaint the skies, and be more compassionate with a place of social diversity, where love is love and love wins in the Marianas. Biba Pride,” said Maritita.

Pride Youth Marianas will be hosting the Ride4Pride Marianas islandwide motorcade tomorrow, June 27, beginning at the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi. Registration time is 12pm and start time is 1pm. (Chevy Alipio)



The Rotary Club of Saipan donated \$5,000 to the Northern Mariana Technical Institute.

KRIZEL TUAZON

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NMI Museum of History and Culture reopens

The NMI Museum of History and Culture has reopened to the public, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3pm. Admission is free.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum now requires visitors to wear a mask, hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrance and throughout the museum, all guests will go through a temperature check, only 10 people will be allowed inside, and social distancing measures would be strictly implemented.

According to NMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino, the museum has been broken down to 11 different stations representing the different exhibits it showcases.

John Reyes, one of the museum's tour guides, said the various stations will have key information and new station signage for guests to navigate since there won't be a tour guide available at the moment. "The museum has been separated into 11 different stations, [so guest could] see the entire...exhibits," he said.

Aquino welcomes the public to visit, saying the museum is a "quiet place for guests



to de-stress."

"We encourage [residents] to come over because the museum has gone through a lot of changes and repairs from previous typhoons as well," he added.

Upcoming budget cuts are going to be very challeng-

ing, he said. The museum expects to lose its last tour guide, Reyes. "Losing John will be very sad considering that we had two tour guides who were certified under the two-week [Marianas Visitors Authority] tour guide certifi-

Representatives unanimously passed on first reading House Bill 21-116, authored by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) to reprogram \$290,000 to support Rota's interisland medical referral patients and hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

Public Law 21-10 appropriated \$220,000 for about 140 Rota dialysis and terminally ill patients' monthly subsistence allowance, but it only covered the funding from May to October 2019. (Iva Maurin)

cation program conducted by [the Northern Marianas College]," Aquino said.

Aquino has been reaching out to the Legislature for additional funding to address critical repairs and other areas of concern. The NMI Museum received \$38,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last June 18.

He said they are trying to

work with agencies in the United States that will enable the museum to tap federal grants. "Whether we get the grant or not, we will try and ask assistance from the Legislature for funding to help us complete the digital technology in the museum," he added.

The NMI Museum has already applied for several grants to get more funding to help modernize the museum "but it

KRIZEL TUAZON
The NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan is once again open to the public, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3pm. Admission is free.

is very competitive to get the grant, but we are hoping that the Legislature will help us if we do not get it. Aside from the repairs and lack of funding, this is also for the kids, the future, and everyone who would like to look into the museum to learn," he said.

"Through digital technology we hope to bring in our residents to increase our traffic and entice new business partnerships with various businesses such as Docomo Pacific, Joeten Enterprises, various hotels, and banks to help promote the museum," he said.

The NMI Museum was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant that will help with the preservation and maintenance of its historical artifacts. "I would like to thank both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for their support and confidence in his leadership," said Aquino.

For more information on the NMI Museum of History and Culture, call (670)-664-2160. (Chevy Alipio)

Senator urges against reprogramming Rota funds

A lawmaker is urging the Department of Finance not to reprogram any Rota public and local law funds.

In a letter dated June 22, Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) asked Finance Secretary David Atalig to spare Rota public and local law funds, including any balances from previous appropriation acts, from being reallocated elsewhere.

The senator stressed that the people and municipality of Rota are suffering tremendously and that reprogramming any currently available funds would jeopardize local programs.

"Despite the reopening of the CNMI economy, Rota has yet to generate any substantial funds available for appropriation. As a result, it is imperative to safeguard all the existing Rota local funds from all sources," she said.

In her letter, Santos asked Atalig to certify whether or not the Rota Legislative Delegation owes the general fund \$290,000, in reference to the appropriation for Rota under Public Law 21-10, which can be used to partially pay any of the delegation's outstanding obligation to the general fund.

According to the senator, the Finance secretary specifically mentioned in a meeting that the Rota Legislative Delegation owes the central government \$564,000.

"It has come to my attention that the governor has given your office fiscal reprogramming authority during this challenging economic time

and COVID-19 pandemic response. The municipality of Rota has very limited local funds from poker fees, e-gaming fees and casino gross revenue taxes," she said. "These local funds are used to pay for Rota local programs such as the interisland medical referral, medical subsistence allowances, local infrastructure projects as well as to supplement the operations of the Office of the Mayor of Rota."

Last June 15, the House of

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CCC

From Page 1

sury director Frances Mafnas and IPI human resources director Redie Dela Cruz disclosed to CCC at the meeting that IPI has just hired a new payroll service provider in Guam to address the payroll problem with IPI employees.

Mafnas said IPI's payroll account at the Bank of Saipan in the amount of \$800,000 was not just being frozen but is actually being closed.

On hiring a CEO, Deleon Guerrero said IPI must do it within 15 days. Since the departure of Mark Brown as CEO, the CCC has been urging the IPI board of directors to find a replacement, Deleon Guerrero said. "We continuously impressed upon them that this is of utmost urgency...to hire one even [on] an interim basis, even an acting one, so CCC would know who to direct all the questions to," he said.

He said IPI has been remiss in making the appointment and that the commission is not interested in seeing a messenger.

IPI senior vice president Tao Xing said IPI can appoint a CEO right away, but given the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it's difficult to have that person on board.

On settling its payable accounts, commissioner Diego M. Songao pointed out that since he became commissioner two years ago, the discussion has always been about IPI's money problem to pay its debts and payables, to continue the construction.

"I really feel that IPI has been playing with the casino commission for the past two years," Songao said, and he feels that IPI is biding time in order to get financing. "This

order perhaps will make IPI wake up that we are serious and that they have to do something," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said what they are looking at in this order is what IPI owes in public land taxes and community fund contributions. "It's now public and private. On the government, there is no such thing as contested," he said.

On maintaining a reserve account, Deleon Guerrero said IPI is ordered to reserve \$1.4 million for the first three months from the effective date of this order, that this restrictive account can only be used for payroll.

For the next three months, the amount in reserve would be doubled to \$2.8 million, which will be on standby.

Starting in January 2021, \$4.2 million must be placed in reserve for payroll. "We [are going to] be auditing this thing. You will be sanctioned for not maintaining the order," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said they don't want to hear any more delayed payrolls for any of the employees, whether in construction or non-construction.

IPI's Mafnas said one of their main concerns is the employees' payroll so they opened this special account with Bank of Saipan that is strictly for employees' payroll checks. "We do not deposit any funding into this account. Only when we have checks reaching to the employees," she said.

Mafnas said there was \$800,000 in that account but it was frozen and then the account was closed after it was taken away by Pacific Rim Land Development LLC through a writ of execution order from the federal court. That meant the payroll checks that IPI em-

ployees had cashed in convenience stores or other bank accounts rather than Bank of Saipan were returned to IPI, she said.

Mafnas said they understand IPI's other bank accounts are being frozen, but this payroll account that belongs to employees should not be touched or closed. "Those are the employees' money. We do not deposit any funding in there until the employees' payroll checks have been released," she said.

As for the new payroll service provider, Mafnas said they just hired this company in Guam last Wednesday and that they just finished sending the service provider the information for IPI's payroll number 13 that was never released. "We have all the checks due to the account being closed," she said.

Mafnas said payroll number 13 supposed to be given today, Friday, but that their parent company in Hong Kong has not able to wire the funding because it was a holiday in Hong Kong last Wednesday and yesterday.

Mafnas said this payroll provider in Guam will be handling IPI's payroll starting with payroll number 13 and onward.

She said the IPI management has assured that they will not be having any funding issue.

When asked how much IPI pays for payroll, Mafnas said they are looking at around \$600,000 to \$700,000 in gross amount for every pay period and that IPI pay about \$1.4 million monthly. She said they are still working to reserve at least three payrolls. Mafnas said the \$800,000 in the Bank of Saipan was not just specifically for one payroll as there are some people who hold on to their checks instead of cashing them.

Mafnas said they ran this idea

of hiring a Guam payroll service provider with to their legal team so she believes it's legal as she noted that many other Saipan companies engaged this same payroll service provider.

IPI's Dela Cruz, the human resources director, said that they are making arrangement for that Guam payroll service provider to send direct deposit and will take care not only the construction workers but everybody else. Dela Cruz said this

will resolve the employees' two pay periods and the upcoming third one by next week. She said they are looking at resolving the payroll issue by next week.

As for the construction employees, no one has been furloughed because the project remains ongoing, she said. Dela Cruz said the employees will get paid as there is funding and the problem is just the mechanism in distributing or disbursing those funds.

COW

From Page 1

this issue.

Iakopo said that he and his staff have visited the cemetery on weekends and weekdays to clean up the manure, which are from cows that have escaped their fences and are wandering into the cemetery to graze.

"If you know this is your livelihood, your life depends on it, you ensure that they [cows] are contained, that they are fed and that they have water to hydrate," said Iakopo to the ranchers.

One of the ranchers, Jack Guerrero, expressed concern over the 60 days given ranchers to erect a temporary fence around the perimeter of their cow grazing premises that serves the purpose of confining their livestock.

Bonnie T. Royal, the DPL Real Estate director, said that the regulation gives grazing permittees 60 days to put up the temporary fence but Guerrero said this is too short a time. "The 60 days that they're giving us is not manageable for us to really contain the whole area," he said. "I believe we might need more than the 60 days to ensure that those fence lines are in there because, no matter what, those cattle will try to break that fence to get

offsite to find food."

Another rancher from San Roque also agreed that 60 days isn't enough. The rancher stated that more than half of the people who hold a permit do not have proper heavy equipment that will allow them to build a proper fence to make sure that cows will not break it down.

DPL Compliance Division's Gregory P. Deleon Guerrero assured Guerrero and other ranchers that an extension on the time to build the fence can be granted if the person asks for it.

Patricia Rasa, DPL Planning director, suggested that the VAO put up a temporary fence at the cemetery while they await the construction of a permanent fence that will be done by the end of the year.

Iakopo seems amenable to this idea. According to him, a temporary fence using mesh or some sort of material will help both the VAO and cattlemen to meet in the middle so that they will both do their part.

"The bottom line [is] we've done it through the regulation changes, we've worked together. Please work with us and I ask all the ranchers who are here, please keep your fences maintained, keep your cattle inside. Otherwise what is the use of a permit?" said DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo.

PSS

From Page 1

conference in their lawsuit that they are no longer seeking the TRO/preliminary injunction as the COVID-19 crisis had already closed schools.

All other portions of the complaint remain.

PSS and Ada are suing Torres and Atalig in a bid to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue. They have also asked the court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunction to stop Torres and Atalig from issuing any payments or disbursements that do not comply with the CNMI Constitution.

Camacho also granted NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang's request to appear via video conference at today's, Friday, hearing in case there are problems with the video conferencing connection. Last Tuesday, Camacho continued the hearing for today to give the parties time to read the NMI Settlement Fund's motion to intervene in the lawsuit. Settlement Fund counsel Nicole M. Torres-Ripple cited that they have an interest in the subject of this proceeding and is entitled to the funds at issue, pursuant to the settlement agreement in Betty

Johnson's class action. The Settlement Fund had also asked the court last Tuesday to suspend proceedings in the lawsuit for three months. Torres-Ripple said this is necessary to give the Settlement Fund enough time to request the determination of the federal court on issues raised by PSS and Ada relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action.

In 2013, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave final approval to a global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund. Under the deal, the CNMI government agrees to make annual payments that will enable the settlement to fund at least 75% of class members' benefits. With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were transferred to the Settlement Fund, as administered by Tang as a court-appointed trustee. Torres-Ripple said a three-month stay is warranted because the questions raised in PSS and Ada's complaint require interpretation of the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action.

On Tuesday, the Settlement Fund also filed a motion before the District Court, requesting that the court resolve PSS' challenges to the

constitutionally-mandated payment obligations owed the Settlement Fund under the settlement agreement in the Johnson class action.

PSS and Ada are suing Torres and Atalig to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue.

PSS and Ada alleged that Torres is in violation of the NMI Constitution because he is carrying out payments and collections under Public Law 21-088.

Mocanu said P.L. 21-0, which established the Commonwealth government budget for fiscal year 2020, appropriated \$37,718,904 to PSS, which is approximately 16% of the budget.

PSS and Ada also alleged that Atalig is in violation of the NMI Constitution because every allotment and disbursement made pursuant to P.L. 21-08 is unconstitutional.

PSS and Ada asked the court to declare that P.L. 21-08 as modified by Torres is unconstitutional.

In their answer to the lawsuit, Torres and Atalig, through the Office of the Attorney General, said the governor's actions are licensed by the state of emergency, the CNMI Constitution, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Act, and the CNMI Emergency Health Powers Act of 2003.

TEAM

From Page 1

According to Harold Easton, regional coordinator of the Speech and Debate Association, qualifiers or main events of the NSDA nationals have always been a challenge and no CNMI national team member has advanced or broken into a main event before.

Kate Ishida and Esther Park made the CNMI's first qualifier break, leading the way for Team CNMI by making it past the preliminary rounds and entering into the top 60 of the Duo Interpretation Main Event.

"After their video competed in eight judging flights, Ishida and Park 'broke' and made the round of the Top 60 in Duo Interpretation before elimination. [This is] the first 'break' in main events ever for the CNMI," Easton said.

The pair bested between 150 and 180 competitors before eliminations.

In addition, Team CNMI's Shea Hartig and Jonathan Wolf made it through four solid rounds in the Original Oratory and Humorous Interpretation Qualifiers, respectively.

James Keaton made it through two rounds of the United States Extemporaneous Speech Qualifier, while Anastasiia Shamanaeva won the first round of the Lincoln Douglas Debate Qualifier.

Team CNMI also broke into the Supplemental Events with Na Lee (Christy) Lee for Prose Reading, Victoria Santos for Story Telling, Shea Hartig for Prepared Prompt Speech, Dane Hodges for Storytelling, and Jonathan Wolf for Prose Reading All broke into the round of the Top 60 and this put them ahead of 82 to 223 competitors.

Maria Elizabeth Bonto for Prepared Prompt Speech, James Keaton for Prepared Commentary, Jill Mallari for Expository Speech, Victoria Santos for Expository Speech, and Amy Soliman for Poetry Reading also almost made the "break."

Easton said Team CNMI placed well among the 5,316 entrants who competed in this virtual tournament.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSDA National Competition shifted to a virtual platform.

The CNMI Team had representatives from Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, and Mount Carmel School.

Bill aims to prohibit personal use of unspent campaign funds

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

A Senate bill that Senate floor leader Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) has introduced seeks to prevent politicians from pocketing unspent donated campaign funds for personal use.

Senate Bill 21-59 not only prohibits the personal use of political campaign funds but also provides that any unused campaign funds be returned to the donor, or donated to charity, among others.

"Currently there's no statute. Any politician who did fundraising and did not use up all the funds raised for the

campaign activities, they can take the remaining and walk away with it and use it for whatever they want to use it for, especially if you quit, or you lost the election," he said in an interview.

The senator said that he crafted the bill to make sure that all funds raised will be used solely for a candidate's political campaign, and not for personal donation or personal activities.

"It should be strictly for your campaign activities," Quitugua said. "After you're done and there's leftover, you should either return the money to the donors, donate it to legitimate nonprofit organiza-

tions, or you can donate it to a political party."

Under S.B. 21-59, campaign funds are prohibited from being used to pay for any residential or household items, supplies, or expenditures, including mortgage, rent, or utility payments for any part of the candidate's or his/her family's residence and non-residential property; clothing other than campaign-related; and tuition payments.

Campaign funds cannot also

be used to pay dues, fees, and gratuities at a country club, health club, gym, recreational facility, or other nonpolitical organizations, unless they are part of a specific fundraising event that takes place on the organization's premises.

It will also be illegal to use campaign funds to pay the salaries of family members, unless the person is providing bona fide services to the campaign, and only within the fair-market value of the services provided.



Quitugua

It will also be prohibited to use the money to pay for admission to sports events, concerts, and any other forms of entertainment, unless part of the campaign; and the funds cannot be used for monetary donations or *chenchule* given to individuals for any personal use while campaigning for an elected office.

The senator said that using campaign funds for personal purposes is tantamount to corruption. "The people who are donating to your campaign, they trust they're [going to] help you with your election or reelection, but they didn't

know that there's leftover, and you're using it for personal, which the donors did not intend for you to use it for," Quitugua said.

Based on the bill, any unused campaign fund may be maintained in a campaign account; transferred to a newly-established political action committee or ballot question advocate; donated to a tax-exempt charitable organization, to a candidate for public office, political organizations, or action committee, or to the CNMI government; or be returned to the donor.

Violators will be fined not greater than \$2,000 or a prison-term of not more than 60 days.

Woman, daughter seek \$7.61M in damages vs vexatious litigant

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A woman and her daughter are seeking \$7.61 million in damages against John Sablan Pangelinan, who has been found by the Superior Court to have abused the legal process by interfering into the probate of a \$3.2-million estate of his deceased cousin.

Secundina Untalan Pangelinan and her daughter, Selina Marie Pangelinan, filed Tuesday before the Superior Court a motion for attorney's fees, cost of litigation, and damages.

Secundina and Selina Pangelinan, through counsel Janet H. King, asked the court to hold John Pangelinan responsible to pay them \$90,281.92 for attorney's fees and costs; \$256,446.85 for damages in the form of investment interest; \$798,580.97 for emotional distress, and \$2,661,936.58 for punitive damages. Additionally, they are also seeking \$3.8 million in the tortious interference claim.

King said the plaintiffs have so far spent a combined total of \$90,281 in both the probate action and in this case. Had it not been for John Pangelinan's frivolous filing, the proceeds from the lease and sale transaction in the total amount of \$2,405,489 would have already been with the plaintiffs and would have been placed in a viable investment with a reputable investment trust firm.

King said that, based on a calculation prepared by AST Trust LLC, had the fund been invested on Dec. 31, 2018, it would have already earned \$256,446 today.

Last May, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that Secundina and Selina Pangelinan have proven by evidence that

John Pangelinan committed the tort of abuse of process in the estate.

Camacho said Secundina and Selina Pangelinan have proven that John Pangelinan also committed the tort of intentional interference with another's performance of their own contract by tortuously interfering in the contractual relations between plaintiffs and Peak Development (CNMI) LLC.

The judge ordered Secundina and Selina Pangelinan to file their request for damages and/or other remedies against

John Pangelinan.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI had declared John Pangelinan a vexatious litigant.

Secundina and Selina Pangelinan sued John Pangelinan for allegedly abusing the legal system to extort money from them by interfering with the probate of the estate of Secundina Pangelinan's deceased husband, Norberto Pangelinan, although he is not a creditor.

Camacho found that based on the testimonies and exhibits, there was nothing in John Pangelinan's relationship with plaintiffs that justified his interference.

Secundina Pangelinan is the administratrix of the estate of Norberto E. Pangelinan. Norberto E. Pangelinan was Secundina Pangelinan's husband and Selina Pangelinan's biological father.

Camacho said that John Pangelinan is very familiar with court proceedings and is knowledgeable about how to clog-up the court's docket. Camacho said John Pangelinan filed a total of almost 500 pages of frivolous motions, declarations, objections, petitions, and claims throughout the probate action.



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DESPITE ZERO COVID-19 CASES

FSM, RMI, Palau will experience fiscal shock—studies

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has published three technical notes from the Graduate School USA's Economic Monitoring and Analysis Program, or EconMAP, providing an initial assessment of the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

“While each of the three Freely Associated States continues to remain free of COVID-19 cases, the slow down and near termination of transportation across the region has had strong repercussions on their economies,” said Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. “It is hoped that the data and analyses in these technical notes can help illuminate impacts as FAS leaders draft fiscal measures and implement mitigation strategies to maintain financial and economic stability now and as they emerge from the impacts of COVID-19.”

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs, the projections made in the EconMAP technical notes assume that travel will remain limited for all three of the FAS through fiscal year 2021 or until a COVID-19 vaccine is developed. The technical notes also utilize economic modeling techniques that project the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic without consideration of any external donor assistance and in the absence of any confirmed

domestic cases. Should any of the three FAS report COVID-19 cases and develop community transmission, the projected negative impacts of the pandemic could be compounded.

As laid out in the reports in more detail, the following highlights reflect initial expected COVID-19 impact in each FAS in fiscal years 2020 and 2021:

■ **Palau:** Heavily dependent on tourism with 20% of all its workers employed in the tourism industry, Palau attracted 90,000 foreign visitors in fiscal year 2019, with the tourism industry contributing 20% to gross domestic product. Prior to the pandemic, Palau's fiscal year 2020 first quarter tourism numbers were on track to grow more than 30% and estimated to attract 116,000 visitors for the year. Instead, it is now projected that Palau will experience a 5% reduction of tourists, with a total expected of about 44,075 visitors, and a further 89% reduction in fiscal year 2021. Overall, Palau is expected to experience a 22.3% decline in GDP and a loss of 3,128 jobs, primarily in the private sector.

The fiscal deficit for Palau, resulting from the loss of tax revenues such as the payroll tax, gross revenues tax, hotel room tax, and import taxes, is projected to be about \$40 million; however, this impact is partially mitigated by Compact grants and trust fund revenues. Construction and infrastructure projects already

planned for Palau are anticipated to serve as an important economic stimulus when the cyclical negative impact of COVID-19 on Palau's economy is being realized.

■ **Federated States of Micronesia:** While the FSM does not enjoy the same level of visitor arrivals as Palau, the majority of the COVID-19 impact will also be felt in the transportation and tourism sectors. The hotel and restaurant industries are projected to fall by 46% in fiscal year 2020 and then an additional 75% in fiscal year 2021, reflecting the absence of tourists and minimal interstate visitors. Similarly, the transportation sector, which includes shipping, port services, aviation, and airport ground handling, is projected to decline by 27% in fiscal year 2020 and an additional 14% in fiscal year 2021. Notably, the total projected loss to the FSM economy will be the most severe decline in the FSM economy since the start of the amended Compact period in 2004. Ultimately, the FSM is expected to experience a 6.9% decline in GDP and a loss of 1,841 jobs, reflecting an 11% reduction of employment levels in the FSM compared to fiscal year 2019.

Optimistically, given the FSM's strong fiscal position at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the application of targeted internal and external assistance, including federal assistance, to bolster health sector investments, improve resiliency in the health system,

provide budgetary resources to offset revenue losses during the pandemic, and to provide direct support to affected individuals and businesses, will be sufficient to offset much of the projected threat to the FSM economy and to its fiscal position going forward.

■ **Republic of the Marshall Islands:** The overall RMI economy relies very little on tourism and visitor arrivals with the hotel and restaurant sector representing only 2.3% of GDP. It is, however, more heavily dependent on the public sector, which includes important fisheries activity and sovereign rent receipts. The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority is already seeing declines ranging from 30 to 50% across aquarium fish exports, the tuna loining plant operations, purse seining operations, and shore-based support to the longline fishing industry. With airline travel to the RMI near complete shutdown, wholesale fuel operations are projected to drop by 45%, reflecting the loss of nearly all of its aviation fuel sales. Overall, the RMI is projected experience a 6.9% decline in GDP and a loss of 716 jobs.

The projected impact on tax revenues, employment, and job loss coupled with potential significant reductions in fisheries revenues may result in a sizeable fiscal shock in the range of \$14 to \$20 million, larger than previous fiscal downturns experienced by the RMI. The RMI will benefit significantly from donor assis-

tance that can help mitigate the projected negative impacts on the economy as a whole and to avoid a dangerous deterioration of its fiscal position.

In all three countries, the breadth and depth of economic impact will be substantial in the tourism, transport, and fisheries sectors, again under the current modeling with each country still reporting zero COVID-19 cases. Although Palau is hardest hit due to its tourism-centered economic structure, the FSM and RMI are also deeply affected. The EconMAP team expects to update the technical notes to eventually quantify the full range and impact that internal mitigating efforts and external donor assistance will have in each FAS, eventually providing a full report to better understand the combined impact of assistance and the net impact of the COVID-19 response.

The full and complete COVID-19 technical notes for the FSM, RMI, and Palau can be

accessed at <http://www.pitviti.org>. EconMAP technical notes are intended to provide a concise and timely analysis of an immediate situation for decision-makers, utilizing currently available data sets and macroeconomic tools developed in close collaboration with stakeholders.

All three FAS governments are working closely with federal partners in the United States government, including the Department of the Interior, to invest in strengthening their health systems and to mitigate the impact on affected individuals and businesses. For a partial list of U.S. federal assistance to the FAS related to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/covid19>.

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program, EconMAP is managed by the Graduate School USA's Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives. EconMAP produces annual economic statistics and economic reviews for the RMI, FSM, and Palau, as well as occasional technical notes on emerging issues. (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

Quake hits Yigo, Guam

At 9pm on June 24, 2020, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 65 kilometers north northeast of Yigo, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Giselle Ivy Leong makes RIT dean's list

ROCHESTER, NY—Giselle Ivy Leong of Saipan was named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 spring semester. Leong is in the graphic design program.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for dean's list if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete”, “D” or “F”; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours. (PR)



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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-20 (AIP PENDING)**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No fee is required for obtaining the package.

Questions regarding this request can be hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at wprater@cpa.gov.mp, or faxed to 670-234-5962, but must be submitted prior to the submission date mentioned below.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements will be evaluated based on the criteria as detailed in the RFQ package.

The qualification statements shall be delivered to CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, by no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020**, Chamorro Standard Time (CHST).

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 6/3/2020

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
ANA FRANCES) NO. 16-0128
I. GATBONTON and)
IVANN I. GATBONTON,)
Defendants.)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 26, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 934414, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:

799 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of June, 2020:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
The Estate of JOAQUINA) NO. 17-0225
NEKAFES KANIKI,)
Deceased,)
Defendant.)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 015 D 00, the original of which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Document no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Total area of the property:

982 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of June, 2020:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

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RFP20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 6TH, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM

“CONSTRUCTION COST ANALYST”



INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

New rules for CNMI WIC participants

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp's CNMI Women, Infants and Children Program has new guidelines for WIC income eligibility and "WIC to GO," a new shopping platform.

Income eligibility

The CNMI WIC Program continues its efforts to ensure food access, breastfeeding support, and reassurance for young families during the COVID-19 pandemic. WIC is available to CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of 5 who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty thresholds, which is demonstrated below. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

All WIC income eligibility guidelines are based on gross income, meaning before taxes or other deductions.

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.

Become a WIC client

Call us at (670) 664-4084 to see if you qualify. In this new normal, we continue to

do remote services, so it is important to have a working phone number where we can reach you.

Essential documents for your certification

For each person who will be enrolling into the WIC program, bring:

■ Identification for adults (driver's license, photo ID)

■ Child's Identification (Immunization Record, Birth Certificate, Crib Card)

■ Proof of Income (30 days of recent pay stubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)

■ Proof of address (mail from CUC, NAP card, map to residence)

WIC to GO

WIC to GO is designed to promote a safe, efficient, and equitable shopping experience during this time of crisis and new normal.

How does WIC to Go Work?

■ Call a participating store to place an order for WIC food benefits as well as other store products (varies per store)

■ Schedule a pick up time that works for you

■ Make a payment using your eWIC card and pick up

your groceries at the scheduled time.

■ Why should I use WIC to Go?

■ It cuts your shopping time in half—this helps limit the time you spend in public places, which is so important now

■ It's easy and convenient

Where to Shop?

Beginning mid-July, 2020 WIC to GO will be offered at Joeten Kagman (call 256-6442)

By early fall:

■ HAN NAM supermarket

■ Blue Sky supermarket

■ San Jose market

■ Capitol Hill market

■ Joeten Susupe

■ Joeten Hafa Adai, Garapan

■ Joeten Dandan

Tips for using WIC to Go

■ Make a shopping list ahead of time

■ Use your WIC app to find what you need

The WIC to GO project is part of and made possible through the Catalyzing Retention Efforts in WIC grant through the National WIC Association by way of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The CNMI WIC is one of four awardees out of 37 applicants to receive this grant.

The purpose of the CREW grant is to address the national decline in participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) that has occurred over the last several years. As a recipient of this grant, the CNMI WIC program is responsible for creating and piloting creative practices that will impact the retention of WIC participants,

increase WIC food redemptions, promote nutrition education and health equity in the CNMI community.

Stay informed and up to date on WIC to Go launch dates, store contact numbers and more by visiting CNMI WIC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnmi-chcc, www.facebook.com/cnmi.wicprogram, or Instagram @cnmi.wic.

For general inquiries about the WIC Program or eligibility, call us at (670) 664-4084. The WIC Clinic is open Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Stay informed and up to date with what is going on at WIC by visiting CNMI WIC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnmi.wicprogram, or Instagram @cnmi.wic. (PR)

WIC Income Eligibility Table By Family Size Effective June 22, 2020

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$984	\$908	\$454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Each Add'l Member Add	+\$8,288	+\$691	+\$346	+\$319	+\$160

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS Income, meaning before taxes or other deductions.

MCS instructor moves higher in her education career

Mount Carmel School first-grade instructor Jasseline "Jass" Ayuyu Seman continues to work on her credentials as an educator in the CNMI.

Earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education is just the beginning, Seman said, as she is already enrolled in Framingham State University's master's degree program in International Teaching through Northern Marianas College.

"I understand how important it is in our society to have strong credentials to gain more opportunities and build a successful future," said Seman.

Seman graduated from Chapin High School in El Paso Texas in 2014 and returned home to the CNMI to start her college career and academic journey. With education being a priority in her life, she first earned her associate degree in Liberal Arts with an Emphasis

in Education.

"I feel that my greatest trial while working toward my degree was managing time with family and school work.



Seman

My greatest accomplishments so far are earning my bachelor's degree, being a good role model for my family, and pursuing my lifelong dream of being an educator," Seman said.

Mount Carmel School principal Barbara Merfalen said, "We are very lucky to have Ms. Jass as a part of our school family. She started as a teaching assistant, but proved herself to be a valuable member in our faculty and is now one of the home-room advisors for our kindergarten students."

That same year Seman joined the MCS community in 2019, she worked with soon-to-retire Delfina Muña to ease the students with the transition. (PR)



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WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2019 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2019 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

For Tinian, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

For Rota, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóomw 2019 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráagh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóomw schaal llól ráághil 2019 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÁLIDÁT HÂNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

lyon-mu 2019 na Ripot nu i Kuálidát Hânóm i CUC managuahayi pá'gu giya on-line! Pá'gu na sákkán, in na'guahayi siparáo na ripot para kada' isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottánti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuálidát put i Hânóm ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiya na web sites para un atan háfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda' gi hálum i hânóm-mu gi durántin 2019 na sákkán para un ke'tungu' mäs put i hânóm ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hãnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

Para Tinian, hãnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

Para Luta, hãnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matranslâda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hãyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian pãppit u ma'entrega pat ma-email guatu para hãgu, put fabot hãgan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

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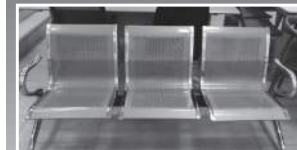
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Workforce law authors clarify intent of ‘touchback’

Marianas businesses were intended to have flexibility when to send CW-1 workers home for a 30-day “touchback,” according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and the other authors of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

Sablan, along with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Arizona), who each chair the committees with responsibility for the insular areas in the Senate and House, and Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) jointly submitted an explanation of their intent to the Department of Homeland Security this

week as part of the formal comment process on regulations governing the Act.

“Touchback” refers to a brief period when a foreign worker is required to exit the CNMI and return to his or her home country. The U.S. Workforce Act, also known as Public Law 115-218, says the employer of a CW-1 worker, who has been in the Marianas for three years, may not apply for a fourth, one-year work permit, until the worker has been outside of the United States for a 30-day period. But the Interim Final Rule that Homeland Security issued last month is unclear on the timing of that “touchback.”

The members of Congress, who wrote the legislation, wanted their intention to be well understood that touchback could occur at any time before submission of an application for a fourth year “to fit the touchback period into the business cycle in a manner that best meets their human resource needs.”

At the same time, the law’s authors renewed their commitment to U.S. workers in the Marianas. The touchback

provision “was intended to emphasize to employers the temporary nature of the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker, or CW, program and

further encourage that they hire U.S. workers, which is the underlying aim of the USWA,” the legislators wrote in their comment.

New travelers must be tested after arriving

All CNMI residents who have just travelled outside the CNMI are being reminded to have themselves tested for COVID-19. Their specimens will be collected at Kanoa Resort. Travelers will have the option to drive-thru or walk-in to the marked testing area and are advised to:

- Bring a photo ID
- Bring your confirmation number
- Wear a face-covering
- Travelers who want to be swabbed in their vehicle must sit next to a window that rolls down

Results will be sent to the email address you provided on the CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form.

The schedule for traveler appointments is as follows:

If you arrived on	Your appointment is	At	Time
Monday	Saturday	Saipan – Kanoa Resort Tinian – Tinian Health Center Rota – Rota Health Center	8:30am to 11am
Tuesday	Sunday		
Wednesday	Monday		
Thursday	Tuesday		
Friday	Wednesday		
Saturday	Thursday		
Sunday	Friday		

Travelers who do not show up for their appointment will be contacted by the Department of Public Safety and may be brought to the designated isolation facility for testing and isolation. The following

fees may be assessed:

- \$500 penalty
- up to \$300 for laboratory testing
- \$400 nightly fee at designated isolation facility. (PR)

Sablan said he appreciated the continuing partnership of members of the bipartisan, bicameral working group that he had formed to draft the U.S. Workforce Act in 2017, as the CW program neared its end. The Workforce Act increased the number of CW permits and extended the CW program from 2019 through 2030 with a specific reduction in the number of permits each year.

The law required that

Homeland Security issue regulations by January 2019, but the department missed that deadline. As a result, many of the protections for U.S. workers against unfair competition from CW workers have been delayed.

The legislators’ comment and comments submitted by other parties are publicly available at regulations.gov under docket number US-CIS-2019-0003. (PR)

New requirements to become a WIOA eligible training provider

The CNMI State Workforce Development Board adopted during their June 17, 2020, meeting the updated federally mandated compliance requirements to the Eligible Training Provider Policy.

The SWDB policy requires all entities interested in becoming an ETP or applying for WIOA assistance and services to apply for eligibility through the CNMI SWDB using the appropriate application forms, submitting all required information, and to comply with all the federally mandated performance levels.

Upon submission of a com-

plete application packet, the SWDB Program Committee will review each application for compliance and make formal recommendations to the entire SWDB for action of their decision to approve, disapprove, or ask for more information from applicants.

Those with successfully approved applications will then work with the CNMI Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency to establish and run the approved programs following the new implementation schedule, also recently adopted by the SWDB.

“Our CNMI SWD Board has been very active in efforts to meet federal performance compliance standards for training providers and for those partners who participate in DOL’s Work Experience Program. We understand the labor market is very fragile, however we still need to look out for the best interests of our participants, meet federal requirements/investments, and place qualified individuals into the workforce,” said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

Application packets can be picked up at the DOL-WIA office on Mednilla Avenue, Building 1353, Capital Hill, Saipan, or can be requested via email at cnmidolwia@gmail.com.

The application submission, review, and implementation period is as follows:

■ Application Pick Up and Submission: July 1 to July 30, 2020

■ SWDB Review Period: Aug. 1 – Aug. 31, 2020

■ Approved Applicant Agreement Period with DOL WIA: Sept. 1 to Sept. 30, 2020

■ Project Start: Oct. 1, 2020

“Improved accountability between the SWDB and CNMI DOL was long due, and we encourage all interested entities to comply with the new federal requirements and apply by the submission date above. There will be three other chances to apply to be an ETP or for entities to receive WIOA services from DOL-WIA. Since we are implementing an entirely new policy, all past, present, and future entities are required to apply,” said SWDB chair Josephine Mesta.

For more information regarding the Eligible Training Provider Policy, contact the DOL-WIA office at 664-1757 or 664-1708. (PR)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

3A'S POLYSHINE Home of V-Kool Is looking for (2) UPHOLSTERER (51-6093)

- Considerable knowledge of the practices and methods of upholstery works, and the use of machinery and equipment for upholstering.
- Ability to make upholstery and other repairs to furniture and interior of vehicles.
- Good knowledge of upholstery materials selections.

Salary Range: \$11.96/hour
Status: Full Time
Anticipated Starting of
Employment: October 1, 2020

V-KOOL Marianas USA LLC Is looking for

(2) Window Film Installer (49-2096)

- Considerable knowledge of the industrial practices of adhesive window film installation
- Ability to work with varieties of window films and window glass surfaces and must not be afraid of height
- Ability to work independent with minimum supervision

Salary Range: \$12.30/hour
Status: Full time
Anticipated Starting of
Employment: October 1, 2020

SIGNSATIONAL Is looking for

(2) Graphic Designer (27-1024)

- Ability to determine size and arrangement of illustrative material and copy, and select style and size of material
- Ability to create designs, concepts, and sample layouts, based on knowledge of layout principles and esthetic design concepts.
- Draw and print charts, graphs, illustrations and other artwork, using computer.

Salary Range: \$8.40/hour
Status: Full Time
Anticipated Starting of
Employment: October 1, 2020

Please check more details of these announcement at www.marianaslabor.net
Submit a typed resume or call 670-235-8938 to arrange for an interview.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Korey Tenorio via email at edsikayun@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Accountant and Auditor

Job Description: Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records for the purpose of giving advice or preparing income controls over financial reporting, or other agreed-upon external audit report. As a member of Audit Team, he/she will examine financial and accounting record and other documents, ask a range of questions from formal written questions to informal oral questions to support the Independent Auditors and he/she must provide support, technical assistance, direction and review the work of all staff members assigned to the engagement. Prepare CNMI, Guam and Various US States individual & corporate income tax and other compliance taxes.

Minimum Qualifications: MAJOR IN BUSINESS OR FINANCIAL RELATED

Job Site: Saipan, CNMI

How to apply: Submit a professional resume to:

BURGER & COMER, P.C

Office Address: Suite 203, MHII Building, Marina Heights, Business Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950



We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) Activities Asst./Lifeguard

High School diploma or equivalent, 3 months' work experienced. Must be a certified lifeguard. Proficient in Microsoft, detail oriented, flexible to work different shifts including weekends and holidays. Due to demographics of visitors to Saipan, Bi-lingual in English-Korean or English-Chinese is preferred.

(1) Assist. Maintenance Manager

High School diploma or equivalent. 24 months of work experienced is required. Knowledge and proficiency on 3512 caterpillar generators, 85 kw aqua design desalination plants, chiller systems, pumps, filtration systems for swimming pools and reverse osmosis systems are required. Must be a certified reverse osmosis (ro) technician in water treatment and distribution. Must have a thorough knowledge and experience in handling diesel plant and reverse osmosis operations. Must be knowledgeable in Microsoft word and excel. Possess basic math skills. Previous experience in management of hotel maintenance/engineering is preferred. Must be able to work under a flexible work schedule including early morning hours, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) Chef de Cuisine

High School Diploma or equivalent, 48 months' work experienced. Must be able to work weekends, holidays and flexible shifts. Experienced in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required.

(1) Computer Support Specialist

Associate Degree in Computer Science. 24 months work experienced is required. Able to work weekends, holidays and flexible shifts. Hotel industry experience is preferred.

(2) Guest Relations Officer

High school diploma or equivalent, two years of work experience. Proficient in language: Korean or Chinese or Russian due to demographic of visitors/tourist to Saipan. Must have cashing experience and computer literacy. Must be able to work nights, days, weekends and holidays.

(2) Operations Assistant Manager

High school diploma or equivalent. Minimum three (3) years of hotel/resort experience and knowledge and managerial experience is expected. Able to work weekends, holiday, increment weather conditions and graveyard shifts.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday June 29, 2020
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock /Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Lawrence C. Boyer d.b.a. Macro Accounting Services

THE POSITION: Accountant

JOB DESCRIPTION: Preparation of CNMI and Federal Tax Returns for Individuals, Partnerships, and Corporations; Preparation of Financial Statements; Examination and Analysis of Accounting Records and Financial Statements; Providing advice on areas of financial matters; and Performs other related duties as may be assigned by the owner.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: With a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting

EXPERIENCE: With at least 60 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must have knowledge and experience in accounting soft wares; Must be computer-literate; and Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills.

JOB SITE: Second Floor, Marianas Variety Building, Alaihai Ave., Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and/or application letter to:

LAWRENCE C. BOYER D.B.A. MACRO ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Office Address: Second Floor, Marianas Variety Building, Alaihai Ave., Garapan

Office Address: Second Floor, Marianas Variety Building, Alaihai Ave., Garapan

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501232, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: laurence.boyer@gmail.com

Telephone Numbers: (670) 285-9272; (670) 287-1162

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Burger & Comer, P.C.

THE POSITION: Senior Auditor

JOB DESCRIPTION: Examines and analyzes accounting records to determine financial status of establishments and prepares financial reports concerning operating procedures; Reviews data regarding material assets, net worth, liabilities, capital stock, surplus, income, and expenditures; Inspects items in books of original entry to determine if accepted accounting procedures were followed in recording transactions; Counts cash on hand, inspects notes receivables and payables, negotiable securities, and cancelled checks; Verifies journal and ledger entries of cash and check payments, purchases, expenses, and trial balances by examining and authenticating inventory items and price testing; Evaluates results of audit procedures performed and determines the appropriate courses of action in response to audit issues and potential findings; Prepares report for management concerning scope of audits, financial conditions found, and source and application of funds; May take recommendations regarding improving operations and financial positions of company; May supervise and coordinate activities of auditors specializing in specific operations of establishments undergoing audit; and Prepares audited financial statements.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: With a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Auditing

EXPERIENCE: With at least 60 months of relevant work experience as an Auditor.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must have the requisite Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Auditing. With a minimum of 60 months or 5 years of relevant work experience as an Auditor preferably in a professional accounting/auditing work environment. Preferably attended continuing professional occupation (CPE) in fields/subjects related to accounting and auditing.

JOB SITE: Suite 203, MHII Building, Mariana Heights, Business Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail resume and/or application letter to:

BURGER & COMER, P.C.

Office Address: Suite 203, MHII Building, Marina Heights, Business Park,

Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: daveb@bcmcpa.com

Telephone Number: (670) 235-8722

OIA approves reverse osmosis, sterilization systems for CHC

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force has received its second approval from the Office of Insular Affairs under the Department of the Interior to upgrade the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp's reverse osmosis system and for the acquisition of steam and low temperature sterilization systems.

The approved retrofitting and specialized equipment totaled \$396,830, which represents 9.82% of the total grant award of \$4,042,585.00. Cumulatively, OIA has approved the use of \$884,012, or 21.87% of the total grant award to the CNMI.

"The multiple acquisition of the systems and upgrade signify a linear progression in improving and hardening the CHCC's access to safe, potable water and ensuring that reusable surgical instruments and personal protective equipment are cleaned, aseptic, and sterile before official use. It will also improve and harden infection reduction systems at the CHCC facility to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections," said task force chair Warren F. Villagomez.

Under the CNMI Territory Action Plan, CNMI leadership has set out a path of planning

to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the Marianas.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC have prioritized several projects to address the critical needs of the hospital to treat COVID-19-related illnesses. The CTAP is led by CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña and special assistant for Homeland Security & Emergency Management Gerald J. Guerrero. Other key members of the planning committee include representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, key management and physicians from CHCC, the Office of the Governor, the Public Assistance Office, and the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse.

"The overall goal of this project is the improvement of standard quality health care at CHCC through the delivery and installation of a new R.O. system and new, reliable medical equipment to ensure rapid and routine sterilization between surgical cases and appropriate terminal cleaning application to equipment used during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We thank OIA for their support during this critical time," said Gov.

Ralph DLG Torres.

The medical equipment will further assist CHCC reach a level of compliance per regulations under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It will address both sections under §482.41 Condition of Participation: Physical Environment and §482.51 Condition of Participation: Surgical Services.

"During the pandemic, proper sterilization is a must in order to ensure the highest standards of practice in surgical services including maintaining and preventing health care-associated infections, especially surgical site infections caused by bacteria or viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2. The acquisition of these sterilization equipment will further reduce delays in surgical operations of patients at CHCC. To gain momentum in reducing the spread of COVID-19 infection and other illnesses, CHCC needs to ensure that the water and facility equipment used for the emergency or operating rooms meet CMS standards," said Muña.

"The CHCC Operating Room critically needs the low temperature sterilization system for the decontamination and reuse of N95 masks dur-

ing the COVID-19 pandemic period. On April 9, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization for use of low temperature sterilization equipment for the decontamination of N95 or N95-equivalent respirators for single-user reuse by health care personnel to prevent exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates, especially if an insufficient supply of masks is present. The CNMI needs to be prepared and ready should we experience a large spike in patients testing positive for the virus, especially as restrictions continue to be lifted and with the increased number or resumption of inbound of flights" said De-

leon Guerrero.

Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios expressed their gratitude to OIA for the approval in federal funds and for the tireless efforts by first responders and medical workers in working to improve facility conditions at the Commonwealth Health Center and the overall health standards for the CNMI community.

"We need to remain steadfast and vigilant to handle this virus. At the same time, we are ensuring accountability and transparency of these federal dollars from OIA," said Torres.

Recovery administrator Angel A. Demapan said that OIA had recently requested an administrative provision

requiring that a sub-recipient agreement be formulated to allow for the proper pass-through of funds between the CNMI government and CHCC. This would allow for the proper monitoring of funds provided and would ensure accountability.

"With the agreement in place, the disbursements of funds to CHCC will occur in a more prompt manner," added Demapan.

The next priority project for the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force is to harden and improve CHCC's facilities through the acquisition of a mobile x-ray system capable of further diagnosing and detecting COVID-19 in symptomatic patients' lungs. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

P.O. Box 500830, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3751/52/53

Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 07, 2020

LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land in Saipan, Northern Marianas islands, as is.

RFP	Lot Number	Area Size	Location
RFP20-RED005	006 D 76	743 sq. meters	Garapan
RFP20-RED006	Portion of 117 D 09	3,011 sq. meters	Puerto Rico
RFP20-RED007	117 D 03	4,892 sq. meters	Puerto Rico
RFP20-RED008	045 E 01	4,200 sq. meters	Lower Base
RFP20-RED009	045 E 02	2,000 sq. meters	Lower Base
RFP20-RED010	038 E 03	4,000 sq. meters	Lower Base
RFP20-RED011	027 E 04	5,000 sq. meters	Lower Base
RFP20-RED012	012 E 02	3,140 sq. meters	Lower Base
RFP20-RED013	004 E 03	7,500 sq. meters	Lower Base
RFP20-RED014	002 B 24	1,500 sq. meters	Tanapag
RFP20-RED015	1794NEW	29,899 sq. meters	Chalan Kiya

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference the selected RFP number and location of choice. Requests should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Friday July 10, 2020 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SHELTER WORKER (GUMA ESPERANSA)

(Temporary, 12 months)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Job Summary: The SHELTER WORKER will be employed by NMCADSV and report to Guma Esperansa, Karidat Social Services. Guma Esperansa is the shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI. Shelter workers provide a variety of direct shelter and advocacy services and related administrative tasks under the direct supervision of the Shelter Manager, including ensuring the safety of residents and other staff, assisting with schedules and transportation for clients, conduct intake assessments, participate in meetings and training, and other tasks as assigned. Please see the "Position Description" for a complete list of duties and responsibilities.

Minimum Qualifications: An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; an understanding of and agreement with the mission of Karidat Social Services; good verbal and written communication skills; and capacity for warmth and openness for working with people from varied backgrounds.

Applicants must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure appropriate coverage for Guma Esperansa, a 24-hour residential shelter. Also, applicants should have reliable transportation and a valid CNMI driver's license.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Non-Exempt, \$16,500.00 per annum.

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page.

To Apply: Submit the following on or before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Cover Letter
- Karidat Application Form (available for download at NMCADSV Facebook Page or by email to info@endviolencenmi.org)
- Copy of Diploma or Degree
- Copy of valid CNMI Driver's License
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtained within the past 6 months)

Applications can be submitted through:

- Email (with all attachments) to info@endviolencenmi.org. OR
- Mail hard-copy to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) OR
- Drop hard-copy to Karidat Social Services, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan (Formerly Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center).

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Free press is under attack in the Philippines

Maria Ressa, a fearless Filipino American journalist, may go from one of *Time* magazine's 2018 "Persons of the Year" to six years in prison for a "cyber libel" charge—a ridiculous accusation the Committee to Protect Journalists decries as "an outrageous crime against press freedom."

The U.S. government should be equally outspoken in defending its constitutional values—and one of its citizens—and directly pressure Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte to end his harassment of Ressa and her online publication, Rappler, as well as other Filipino journalists trying to truthfully report on the country.

The case against Ressa and Reynaldo Santos Jr., a former Rappler staffer, is both a travesty and a technicality. It involves a 2012 article about a businessman allegedly tied to drug trafficking that was published four months before a draconian new libel law was passed. Two years later, a Rappler staffer fixed a one-word typographical error in the original article, which created an opening to charge Ressa and Santos in a case that Patricia Gallagher Newberry, the president of the Society of Professional Journalists, called in a statement "a huge setback for press freedom" that "sends the message that other journalists could also be punished for speaking truth to power when it comes to the Duterte government."

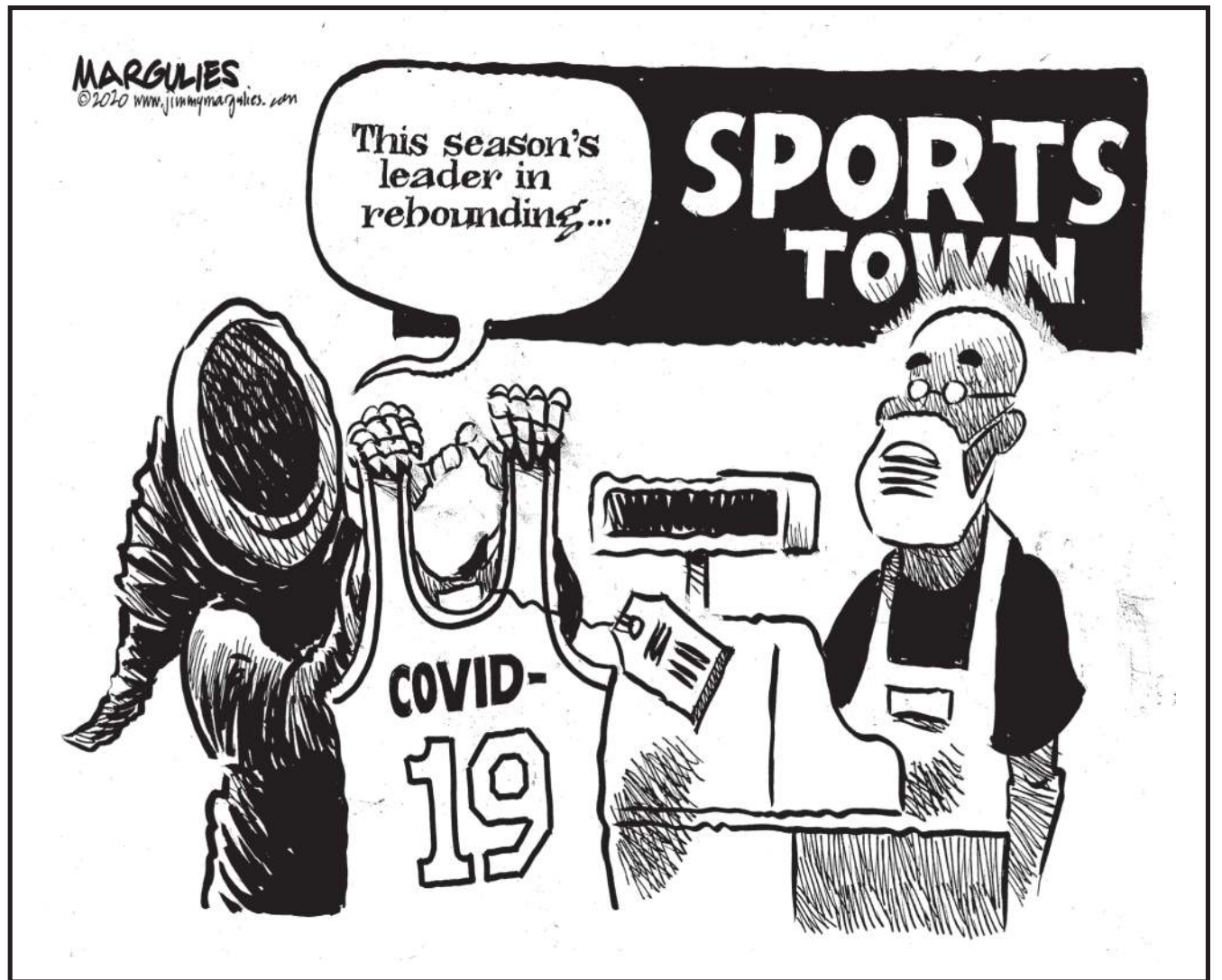
That message has been sent repeatedly by Duterte, who has called journalists "sons of bitches" who are "not exempt from assassination." Just last month, his government shut down ABS-CBN, the Philippines' biggest broadcasting network, which like Ressa and Rappler had the guts to criticize the Duterte regime.

The Philippines ranked 136th out of 180 nations on Reporters Without Borders 2020 World Press Freedom Index. And the type of repression represented by Duterte is accelerating worldwide. "This is a much broader issue than what is happening to her and her newspaper; it is reflective of an authoritarian mindset that has taken over in many countries today," Jane Kirtley, the director of the University of Minnesota's Silha Center for Media Ethics and the Law, told an editorial writer.

The Philippines is ostensibly a democracy. And ostensibly a U.S. ally. It's acting like neither as Duterte falsely accuses the CIA of funding Rappler, and overall flouts the values the U.S. espouses. Or at least used to. At a meeting with Duterte, President Donald Trump laughed when his Filipino counterpart called journalists "spies," and the president hasn't said anything about Ressa's and Santos' convictions. As for the State Department, it could only muster a milquetoast statement expressing "concern."

Can't find the words? How about these, from Ressa's attorney Amal Clooney: "Today a court in the Philippines became complicit in a sinister action to silence a journalist

See PHILIPPINES on Next Page



Why would Europe want American visitors right now?

So the European Union, which has largely controlled the spread of COVID-19 and understandably wants to keep it that way, is deciding whom to let into its borders come July 1. And the list of approved countries, to be released next week, will apparently not include the U.S. Many Americans will be outraged. President Donald Trump is sure to have a hissy fit.

A glance down the list, which is still being drawn up and will be reviewed every 14 days based on new epidemiological data, will only make Americans madder. How dare those Europeans treat us like Brazilians and Russians, who'll also be restricted? How dare they treat us worse than Ugandan or Vietnamese visitors, who get the greenlight? Even China, the origin of what Trump—in typical race-baiting fashion—calls the "kung flu," made the cut.

Actually, though, the only thing worthy of outrage in all this is that American attitude. It's Trump and his cronies who want to pretend that absolutely everything, even epidemiology, is not only political but also about him. The EU, for its part, is trying extra hard to base its decision purely on science. Using those criteria, ask yourself: Why wouldn't the EU try to keep nonessential American travelers out?

The global heat map of SARS-CoV-2 has been shifting since the coronavirus spread from China at the beginning of the year. For a while, Italy, Spain and other parts of Europe were the epicenter. But most of the EU (to which Britain no longer belongs) has now controlled the virus's transmission. In fact, countries like Germany now have the relative luxury of exchanging the sledgehammer of general lockdowns for the scalpel of local and temporary restrictions, whenever there are isolated outbreaks, as in the city of Guetersloh. Reimporting the virus wholesale from regions where it's still rampant would be irresponsible.

And the U.S. is one such region. As a country, it's currently the global epicenter, with more than 2.3 million cases and over 120,000 deaths from COVID-19. Within it, some regions have the virus under control, whereas others—Texas, Arizona and Florida, for example—don't. But such regional variance also applied to the EU when Trump slapped a widespread ban on European visitors in March, at a time when the virus was already spreading mainly within the U.S.

That decision, like the additional scorn Trump will now predictably heap upon the Europeans, was indeed mostly political. Since before taking office, Trump has been treating some Euro-

By **ANDREAS KLUTH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist. He's the author of Hannibal and Me.



pean countries and leaders, especially German Chancellor Angela Merkel, more like foes than allies. Witness his decision just the other week to withdraw about one in four American troops stationed in Germany, apparently to settle personal scores.

On the European side, by contrast, there's a genuine effort to keep politics out of decisions about travel restrictions. Yes, reciprocity is admittedly one factor for the decision: The U.S. still keeps out European visitors. The main consideration by the Europeans, however, as reported by the *New York Times*, is the average number of infections per 100,000 people over the past two weeks. In the EU as a whole, that's currently 16. In the U.S., it's 107. Case closed.

Most Europeans actually want U.S. visitors to return, just as they want to resume going stateside. They like Americans as tourists, business partners, allies and above all friends. And they want transatlantic relations to thaw out of the ice age in which they've been frozen since Trump entered the White House. But they also want to keep a pandemic at bay.

Most Americans will understand that, and keep it in mind when Trump starts bashing Europe again. But others will fume. Those partial to Trump will do so because this European gesture holds a mirror to his own failings in responding to the coronavirus.

Others will be furious because they think the U.S., especially in its relations with Europe, should be held to different rules than any other country. But that's exactly the kind of American exceptionalism, often expressed in international "exemptionalism," that I recently critiqued. As a regular transatlantic traveler myself, I hope all restrictions will be gone as soon as possible. But the best way to get there is for the U.S. to start dealing with this outbreak properly.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Social distancing hypocrisy

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had big news last week—the city is opening up its iconic Lakefront Trail after months of being closed off as part of a COVID-19 lockdown.

That Lightfoot kept the trail closed even after Chicago had experienced large-scale Black Lives Matter marches—thousands during the “Drag March for Change”—is one small instance of the flagrant social distancing hypocrisy across the country in recent weeks.

If it’s OK for throngs of people to pack the streets, and shout and chant to protest the death of George Floyd, it ought to be permissible for someone to ride a bike along the lakeside while keeping to him- or herself.

Yet, Mayor Lightfoot welcomed the protestors—“We want people to come and express their passion,” she said—and still kept the trail shuttered.

Many of the same officials who were most zealous in locking down their states and cities instantly made an exception for Black Lives Matter protests. Their rigidity became laxity in a blink of an eye. Their metric for reopening wasn’t the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines or any other public health measure, but the “wokeness” of the activity in question.

Visiting the deathbed of a loved one with COVID-19? Absolu-

tely not. Having a proper funeral? No way. Gathering more than about 10 people at a graveside? No one should be allowed to put the public at risk in such a way.

Bringing thousands of strangers to march together for hours in spontaneous, disorderly groups? Thank you for your commitment to positive change.

Attending a church service? Well, maybe in a couple of months.

Holding a struggle session with religious trappings where people confess their racism and vow to work to defund the police? Please, let’s have more.

To believe the leaders of Blue America, SARS-CoV-2 is the first virus in human history to have a social conscience—virulent enough in the ordinary course of events to justify the most restrictive social controls; not such a big deal if it might get in the way of marches for social justice.

The likes of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio have justified the different standards by arguing that fighting racism is important. Well, so is mourning your dead, keeping your business from being ground to dust and worshiping your God. It’s a sign of a ludicrously blinkered worldview to believe that a protest march deserves more consideration than these other elemental human needs.

Another argument is that the protesters are willing to put

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

their health on the line for their cause. But, until recently, it was said that anyone going outside wasn’t just endangering themselves, but the most vulnerable people in our communities. Why wouldn’t that be true of the Black Lives Matter marches, too?

Don’t expect consistency, or even a serious attempt at it. More than 1,000 public health experts signed a letter calling the protests “vital to the national public health,” thus immolating their credibility on a pyre of motivated reasoning. It’s social distancing for people and activities they find uncongenial, and different rules for their ideological allies.

What a contemptible betrayal of the public trust.

Let’s work to end racial wealth divide

By **OMAR OCAMPO** and **CHUCK COLLINS**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Black Lives Matter movement has drawn attention not just to police brutality but to an entire system built on racial injustice. One major expression of that injustice is the nation’s glaring racial wealth divide, the financial legacy of centuries of white supremacy.

Even before the pandemic, our research at the Institute for Policy Studies found that median white families had literally dozens of times more wealth than median Black or Latinx families. The median Black family today, we found, owns just \$3,600 in household wealth, or about 2% of the median white family’s \$147,000, while the median Latinx family has assets worth \$6,600, or 4% of the white median.

Over the last few decades, those disparities have been supercharged by an economy that funnels wealth to the billionaire class at the expense of everyone else. As government spending, taxation and trade policies have shifted a larger and larger share of wealth to the overwhelmingly white top 0.1%, the racial wealth divide has grown ever wider.

The COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating those trends. Even as the Federal Reserve reports that more than \$6.5 trillion in household wealth vanished during the first three months of the crisis, surging stock markets padded billionaire bank accounts to an astonishing degree.

Our new report, “White Supremacy Is the Pre-Existing Condition,” shows just how staggering that gap is becoming.

In the weeks between March 18 and June 11, the combined wealth of America’s 640 billionaires increased by more than \$637 billion. They are now worth about \$3.6 trillion, an amount greater than the combined wealth of the nation’s 59 million Latinx people and about three-quarters of that held by its 41 million Black residents.

The \$1.9 trillion owned by just the top 70 billionaires is equivalent to all the home equity wealth of all Black and Latinx households combined.

PHILIPPINES

From Page 10

for exposing corruption and abuse. This conviction is an affront to the rule of law, a stark warning to the press, and a blow to democracy in the Philippines.”

If Trump, who uses Stalin-era slanders like “enemy of the people” to refer to the constitutionally protected press corps, won’t call out Duterte’s government, Congress must. Republican lawmakers in particular should show some rare independence from the president. They should hear and heed the words of Ressa, who said outside the courtroom: “We’re redefining what the new world is going to look like, what journalism is going to become. Are we going to lose freedom of the press?”

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

Bolstered by America’s surging movement for racial justice, these stunning facts should strengthen our resolve to reduce the racial wealth divide as part of our pandemic response and economic recovery program.

We propose several solutions that will reduce the racial asset gap and build an economy that works for everyone, not just the billionaires. These include steps to produce a guaranteed income or guaranteed employment, like the Works Progress Administration provided during the Great Depression.

We are also calling for a universal health coverage system that is delinked from employment, expanded inclusive housing policies, the seeding of “baby bond” accounts to help every American start building assets at birth, and a new system of postal banking, to protect underbanked families from predatory lending.

These and other reforms can be funded through more progres-

Advice to young activists from a 101-year-old historian: The 2020 census matters

These last months have been a stressful and difficult time in the history of our country. I say that with some experience behind me. I’m 101 years old.

I was born during the 1918 influenza pandemic. My grandparents were born slaves. My parents were sharecroppers in Alabama before moving to Chicago when I was 3 years old. I fought Nazis in Europe during World War II, and I organized the Chicago delegation to Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1963 March on Washington as the civil rights movement took wings.

The murder of George Floyd was shocking in its cruelty, but the circumstances were all too familiar. I’m so proud of the millions of young people across the country, who (many for the first time) marched in protest and dedicated themselves to advancing the project of social and racial justice. In a way, this moment is a passing of the torch to a new generation of activists, all wanting to take action, to make a difference.

So, I have some advice for the new generation of activists for equality. In addition to organizing, voting, demonstrating and rattling the gates of power, we must not neglect a quieter action that is an important part of making our voice is heard—being counted in the 2020 U.S. census.

Most understand the importance of voting, although too few actually exercise this important right. But I don’t get the sense that everyone understands how important being counted is to the cause of equal rights and racial justice. It’s important because the data collected from the census is used to distribute billions of dollars in federal economic resources. It’s important because census data is used to define districts of elected representatives.

But beyond all that, it’s important because you matter, your presence in our society matters and you should be officially recorded for all time.

sive income, wealth and estate taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

After the nation’s last economic crash in 2008, our government’s response worsened the racial wealth divide by bailing out Wall Street, but not Main Street homeowners and businesses.

This time, at a moment of a historic reckoning with racial injustice, let’s learn from these mistakes. As we plot a course of recovery, we should advance solutions that will heal the racial wealth divide—and enable us to grow together.

Omar Ocampo and Chuck Collins are co-authors of the Institute for Policy Studies report White Supremacy Is the Pre-Existing Condition: Eight Solutions to Ensure Economic Recovery Reduces the Racial Wealth Divide. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

By **TIMUEL BLACK**

Chicago Tribune



Timuel Black is a Chicago educator, author and civil rights advocate.

I recently had the opportunity to see the official ledger of my family from the 1930 U.S. census when I was just 11. It was moving to see each of my family members listed next to each other.






The census was once used as a tool to uphold racial discrimination policies. Now, census data helps fight racial injustice by comparing representations in the population as a whole to representations in jobs, education and financial opportunities. This is key to finding out where civil rights laws are not being followed and enforced.

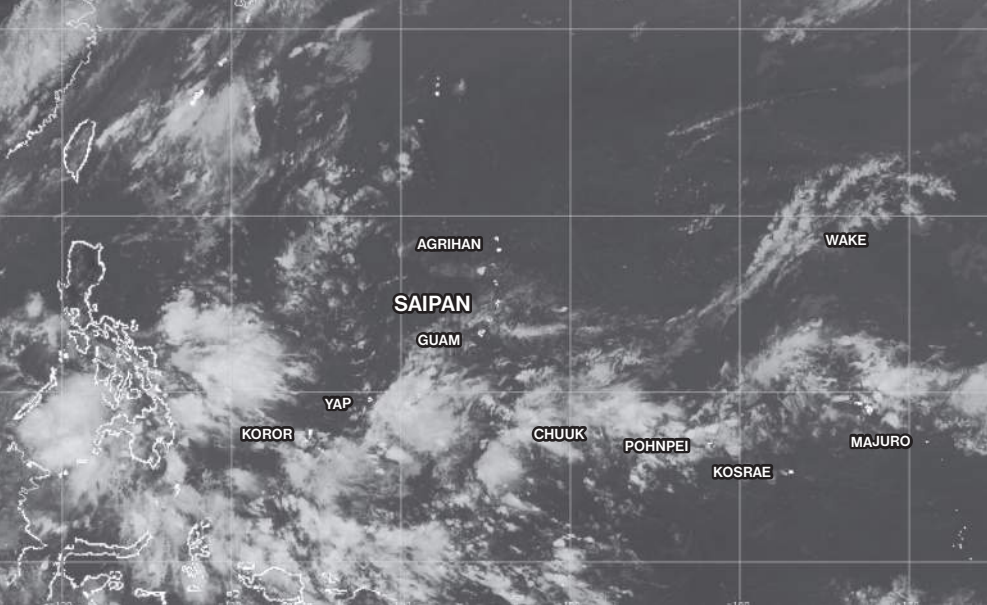
But even though the census data is an important tool, it is still undercounting African Americans in each census—including by more than 800,000 undercounts in the 2010 census. It is estimated that black children were undercounted by 7% in the previous census 10 years ago, twice the rate of white children.

As someone who has seen both the pain and the progress in the struggle for equal justice, I implore everyone to fill out the 2020 census at www.my2020census.gov. It’s not some bureaucratic form. It’s part of history—the history of you and the history of our nation.

You deserve to be counted. You need to be counted. Take action today to make sure you are counted.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds, partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are present across the Marianas. Combined seas range from 4 to 6 feet in the coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:14 AM	11:09 PM	-
Saturday	11:11 AM	11:53 PM	-
Sunday	12:08 PM	-	-
Monday	-	12:36 AM	1:04 PM
Tuesday	-	-	1:19 AM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	55° / 48°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	102° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°	
London	Sunny	81° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 65°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Paris	Sunny	82° / 57°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	75° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	84° / 63°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 74°	
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.13	
5:49 AM	LOW TIDE	1.42	
10:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.91	
5:36 PM	LOW TIDE	0.02	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Paire' Corner, a new gourmet and deli place, formally opens on July 3 giving more life to the bustling business scene in San Jose Village, Tinian. Saipan's Next Top Chef 2013 winner Rhea Backe leads this business venture as operations manager and chef.

"I have always had a passion for cooking and in 2013, this passion made me win Saipan's Next Top Chef competition. I was both the first female participant and amateur to win. This made me believe and gain confidence that I am capable of cooking good food and share my home recipes and cooking style with the community," she said.

"To make the Tinian community know that we are here and ready to serve, we had a soft opening last June 10 and on July 3 will be our grand opening. This gourmet and deli shop is for everyone on Tinian and we can't wait to have customers from Saipan, Rota, Guam, and from just about anywhere," she added.

Paire' Corner serves sub sandwiches like classic turkey sub, black forest ham sub, chicken teriyaki sub, Paire'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
One of Paire' Corner's top favorites is their pulled pork sandwich.

signature pastrami sub, and Paire' pulled pork sandwich. Their delicious paninis include teriyaki-style chicken, black forest ham, and baked turkey paninis. All subs and sandwiches are reasonably priced and draught beer will soon be available which is a first on Tinian.

Paire' Corner marketing director Lizabeth Hofschneider said that they wanted to offer something different on Tinian. Being a teacher at Tinian Jr. Sr High School, Hofschneider has a pretty good grip the beat of the community. "We want to

Paire' Corner

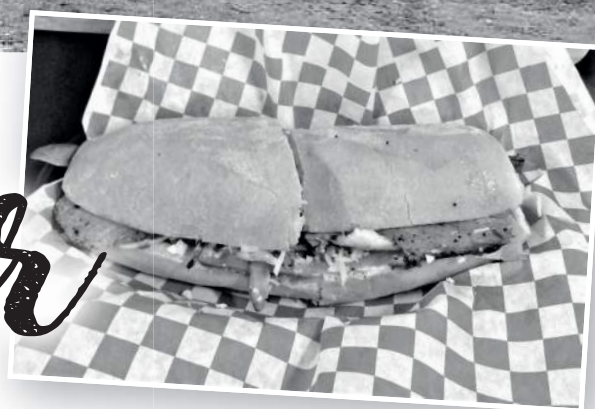
on Tinian opens July 3

offer something different to local residents, tourists, and visiting military servicemen and women... One thing I realized is that our local people love gourmet sandwiches as we have regulars who show up almost daily," she said.

"Customer feedback is important for us to grow and serve our customers better. Some of the feedback that go so far are 'Thank you for bringing gourmet subs to our island,' 'I love the pulled pork



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Paire' Corner is a new gourmet and deli restaurant in San Jose, Tinian.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Customers have many subs and paninis to choose from like this black forest ham panini.

sub,' 'baked turkey panini is the best'...My sincerest appreciation to the community of Tinian for the warm welcome of our sub/deli restaurant," she added.

Backe said that where Paire' Corner stands now used to be the Tinian Teen Center. "Aside from offering subs and paninis, we were also able to provide jobs. Two of my staff used to work at the Teen Center, Edwin Manibusan and Charlene Danganan... All employees

must undergo physical screening and attend a food-handling seminar."

"Currently, we have seven apprentices—two from Saipan and five from Tinian. With this COVID-19 pandemic, students transitioning to college are looking for a source of income to support their education. We are grateful to be the bridge to achieve their goal, whether for college

or career. We also we continue to build partnerships with our local vendors."

Paire' Corner on Tinian is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 1pm for lunch and 5pm to 9pm for dinner. They give 10% discount to military veterans, soldiers, and locals. For more information, call (670) 433-2683 or look them up on Facebook: Paire' Corner.

Australia's Qantas airline to cut 6,000 jobs as virus hits

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Qantas plans to cut at least 6,000 jobs and keep 15,000 more workers on extended furloughs as Australia's largest airline tries to survive the coronavirus pandemic.

Qantas announced a plan Thursday to reduce costs by billions of dollars and raise fresh capital. The plan includes grounding 100 planes for a year or more and immediately retiring its six remaining Boeing 747 planes.

Chief Executive Alan Joyce said the airline has to become smaller as it braces for several years of much lower revenues. He said the furloughed workers faced a long interruption to their airline careers.

"The actions that we're taking will have a huge impact on thousands of our people. This is something

that weighs very heavily on all of us," Joyce told reporters. "This is something that we don't make a decision on very easily. But the collapse of billions of dollars in revenue leaves us with little choice if we are to save as many jobs as possible longer term."

Joyce said the airline entered the crisis in a better position than most airlines and remained optimistic about the future.

"This crisis has still hit us very, very hard and the impact will be felt for a long time," Joyce said.

In a plan filed with the Australian stock exchange, Qantas said it would reduce costs by 15 billion Australian dollars (\$10 billion) over three years and raise new equity of A\$1.9 billion to help accelerate the airline's recovery and position it for new opportunities.

Peru giving up on virus measures in face of sinking economy

LIMA, Peru (AP)—On the same day that the Peruvian government announced another grim increase in the number of coronavirus infections, thousands of people packed together in hours-long lines outside shopping malls for a chance to buy a new sweater, sneakers or computer.

Peru—which has reported the world's sixth-highest number of cases in a population of just 32 million—has decided to ignore scientific warnings and opened many of the country's largest shopping malls this week. The government had been following international advice on fighting COVID-19—enforcing a strict

stay-at-home order for three months—but the measures failed to prevent one of the world's worst outbreaks, and the country now faces one of the region's deepest recessions on top of rising death rates.

The official unemployment rate sits at 13%, and one university study estimates that the country will lose 4.2 million jobs by the end of the year—figures that don't even capture the large part of the economy that is informal.

Thousands of community-run soup kitchens have popped up, providing cheap meals for neighbors who pool resources because they can no longer

afford to feed themselves on their own.

"It's hard, and sad, when you have kids and there's no food," Yeni Anco, a 46-year-old mother of seven, whose husband sells face masks on the streets of Lima. "A bigger kid can take it, but a little one can't."

So now, Peru is prioritizing commerce over public health, and hoping for the best. Reopening malls is the largest step the government has taken so far, but by June 30, all anti-virus measures will be removed.

With 402 stores, including H&M and Zara, the Lima MegaPlaza has a normal capacity of 30,000 people.

Management was limiting shoppers to half that number under government orders this week—but the result was thousands of people in closely packed lines outside.

More than 2,000 waited Tuesday afternoon in lines that snaked from the main entrance of the mall. Almost all wore masks, but many did not respect the 3-foot (1-meter) distancing mandated by the Peruvian government—already less than the 6 feet advised elsewhere. Street vendors, taxi drivers and beggars wandered among the crowds.

Two police officers watched passively.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

25,445.94
-710.16
2.72%

S&P

3,050.33
-80.96
2.59%

NASDAQ

9,909.17
-222.20
2.19%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4567
British Pound	0.8058
Canadian Dollar	1.3644
Chinese Yuan	6.9670
Euro	0.8888

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7498	Russian Ruble	68.4955
Indian Rupee	75.1810	Singapore Dollar	1.3918
Japanese Yen	107.1130	South Korean Won	1180.73
Malaysian Ringgit	4.2330	Swiss Franc	0.9489
New Zealand Dollar	1.5582	Taiwan Dollar	29.0154
Philippine Peso	49.0539	Thailand Baht	30.9110

Nation

‘Coming back and biting us’: US sees virus resurgence

HOUSTON (AP)—A coronavirus resurgence is wiping out two months of progress in the U.S. and sending infections to dire new levels across the South and West, with hospital administrators and health experts warning Wednesday that politicians and a tired-of-being-cooped-up public are letting a disaster unfold.

The U.S. recorded a one-day total of 34,700 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, the highest

level since late April, when the number peaked at 36,400, according to a count kept by Johns Hopkins University.

While newly confirmed infections have been declining steadily in early hot spots such as New York and New Jersey, several other states set single-day records this week, including Arizona, California, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Oklahoma. Some of them also broke hospitalization re-

cords, as did North Carolina and South Carolina.

“People got complacent,” said Dr. Marc Boom, CEO of the Houston Methodist hospital system. “And it’s coming back and biting us, quite frankly.”

Stocks slid on Wall Street as the news dampened hopes for a quick economic turnaround. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost over 700 points for a drop of 2.7%. The broader S&P 500 fell 2.6%.

The virus has been blamed for over 120,000 U.S. deaths—the highest toll in the world—and more than 2.3 million confirmed infections nationwide. On Wednesday, the widely cited University of Washington computer model of the outbreak projected nearly 180,000 deaths by Oct. 1.

California reported over 7,100 new cases, and Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said he would withhold pan-

dem-related funding from local governments that brush off state requirements on masks and other anti-virus measures. Florida’s single-day count surged to 5,500, a 25% jump from the record set last week.

In Texas, which began lifting its shutdowns on May 1, hospitalizations have doubled and new cases have tripled in two weeks. Gov. Greg Abbott told KFDA-TV the state is facing a “massive outbreak” and might need new local restrictions to preserve hospital space.

The Houston area’s intensive care units are nearly full, and two public hospitals are running at capacity, Mayor Sylvester Turner said.

Houston Methodist’s Boom said Texans need to “behave perfectly and work together perfectly” to slow the infection rate.

“When I look at a restaurant or a business where people ... are not following the guide-

lines, where people are just throwing caution to the wind, it makes me angry,” he said.

Just 17 percent of intensive-care beds were available Wednesday in Alabama—including just one in Montgomery—though hospitals can add more, said Dr. Don Williamson, head of the Alabama Hospital Association.

“There is nothing that I’m seeing that makes me think we are getting ahead of this,” he said.

In Arizona, emergency rooms are seeing about 1,200 suspected COVID-19 patients a day, compared with around 500 a month ago. If the trends continue, hospitals will probably exceed capacity within the next several weeks, said Dr. Joseph Gerald, a University of Arizona public health policy professor.

“We are in deep trouble,” said Gerald, urging the state to impose new restrictions on businesses, which Gov. Doug Ducey has refused to do.



AP

Members of Orange County Fire Rescue and volunteers pass out personal protective equipment (PPE) items including disposable face masks, reusable masks and hand sanitizer to small businesses Wednesday, June 24, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

3 men indicted on murder charges in killing of Ahmaud Arbery

ATLANTA (AP)—Three white men have been indicted on murder charges in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man fatally shot while running in a neighborhood near Georgia’s coast.

Prosecutor Joyette Holmes announced Wednesday that a grand jury has indicted Travis McMichael, Greg McMichael and William “Roddie” Bryan Jr. on charges including malice and felony murder in Arbery’s death.

“This is another positive step, another great step for finding justice for Ahmaud, for finding justice for this family and the community beyond,” Holmes said at a news conference outside the Glynn County courthouse in Brunswick that was streamed online by news outlets.

Arbery’s death has often been invoked during protests against racial injustice that have broken out across the nation since George Floyd’s death last month under a white Minneapolis police of-

ficer’s knee. Arbery’s death also fueled a renewed push for a state hate crimes law in Georgia, which state lawmakers passed on Tuesday.

Lawyers for the McMichaels have cautioned against a rush to judgment and have said the full story will come out in court. A lawyer for Bryan has maintained that his client was merely a witness.

Arbery was slain Feb. 23 when the Greg and Travis McMichael, a father and son, armed themselves and pursued the 25-year-old Black man running in their neighborhood. Greg McMichael told police he suspected Arbery was a burglar and that Arbery attacked his son before being shot. Arbery’s family has said he was out for a jog.

Bryan lives in the same subdivision, just outside the port city of Brunswick. Bryan said he saw the McMichaels driving by and joined the chase, a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent Richard Dial testified earlier this month at a

probable cause hearing.

It wasn’t until May 7—two days after Bryan’s cellphone video leaked online and stirred a national outcry—that the McMichaels were arrested. Bryan was arrested on May 22, and an arrest warrant said he tried “to confine and detain” Arbery without legal authority by “utilizing his vehicle on multiple occasions” before Arbery was shot.

Bryan told investigators that Travis McMichael cursed and said a racist slur as he stood over Arbery, moments after he fatally shot him, Dial testified.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case after the video surfaced. The state attorney general appointed Holmes, who’s the district attorney in Cobb County near Atlanta, to prosecute after the local district attorney recused herself because Greg McMichael had worked for her—and two other outside prosecutors also stepped aside.

In addition to malice murder and felony murder charges, the McMichaels and Bryan each are charged with two counts of aggravated assault and one count each of false imprisonment and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment.

Under Georgia law, a felony murder charge means that a death occurred during the commission of an underlying felony and doesn’t require intent to kill. Malice murder requires “malice aforethought, either express or implied.” Any murder conviction in Georgia carries a minimum sentence of life in prison, either with or without the possibility of parole.

Court functions in Georgia have been severely limited in recent months because of a statewide judicial emergency declared by the chief justice of the state Supreme Court in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Holmes said they were able to call in a grand jury that had been impaneled prior to the judicial emergency.

Fireworks are booming before July 4, but why the ruckus?

NEW YORK (AP)—They are a symbol of celebration, loudly lighting up the night sky and best known in the U.S. as the explosive exclamation point to Fourth of July festivities.

This year, fireworks aren’t being saved for Independence Day.

They’ve become a nightly nuisance ringing out from Connecticut to California, angering sleep-deprived residents and alarming elected officials.

All of them want to know: Why the fascination with fireworks, and where is everybody getting the goods?

“I had that same question,” said Julie L. Heckman, executive director of the American Pyrotechnics Association.

Theories range from coordinated efforts to blame those protesting police brutality to bored people blowing off steam following coronavirus lockdowns. Most states allow at least some types of consumer fireworks, making them difficult to contain in cities like New York where they’re banned because people can drive a couple of hours away to buy them legally.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio set up a multiagency task force in hopes of getting answers, after blasts from Brooklyn to the Bronx have people in the city that never sleeps desperate to actually

get some.

Made up of police, firefighters and the Sheriff’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the task force will conduct sting operations to try to stop the sales of explosives that are proving dangerous. A 3-year-old boy was injured Wednesday while watching fireworks from his apartment window.

“This is a real problem. It is not just a quality-of-life problem and a noise problem,” de Blasio said.

Many Fourth of July celebrations will be smaller or eliminated entirely because of coronavirus restrictions. Yet the business of fireworks is booming, with some retailers reporting 200% increases from the same time last year, Heckman said.

Her industry had high hopes for 2020, with July 4 falling on a Saturday. Then came the pandemic and its closures and cancellations, leaving fireworks retailers worried they wouldn’t be able to scratch out much of a sales season.

Those fears have gone up in smoke.

“Sales are off the hook right now. We’re seeing this anomaly in use,” Heckman said. “What’s concerning to us is this usage in cities where consumer fireworks are not legal to use.”

Officials have the same concern.

Asia

China blames India for border clash, urges stability

BEIJING (AP)—China on Wednesday again accused India of provoking a border clash earlier this month that left at least 20 soldiers dead, but urged New Delhi to “meet China halfway” in restoring peace and stability along their disputed frontier high in the Himalayas.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian offered a longer explanation of China’s view of the incident but gave little new information.

He reasserted China’s claim that the confrontation on June 15 in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region, occurred on China’s side of the Actual Line of Control and Indian forces had illegally entered Chinese territory.

“The responsibility (for the incident) is entirely not on the Chinese side,” Zhao said at a daily briefing.

“The reckless actions by the Indian military seriously violated agreements signed between the two countries and seriously violated the basic principles of international relations. They were evil in nature and the consequences were severe,” Zhao said.

Commanders agreed Monday to disengage their forces in their first meeting since the



^{AP}
This June 22, 2020, satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the border between India and China.

confrontation.

On Wednesday, Indian and Chinese officials participated in a video conference and reaffirmed that both sides should sincerely implement the understanding on disengagement

and deescalation reached by the army commanders, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said in a statement.

The clash was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years. India said 20 of its soldiers died. China has not released any information on casualties on its side.

Soldiers brawled with clubs, rocks and their fists at 4,270 meters (14,000 feet) above sea level, but no shots were fired, Indian officials have said. The

soldiers carry firearms but are not allowed to use them under a previous agreement in the border dispute.

Indian security officials said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

The valley falls within a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control—the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Zhao said talks held Monday and Tuesday resulted in both sides agreeing to take necessary measures to cool the situation and promote peace and stability.

“We hope the Indian side will strictly abide by and seriously implement the above consensus and meet China halfway and through practical actions, restore peace and stability in the border region,” Zhao said.

Asked why China was offering such a lengthy defense

of its position when the sides had already agreed to reduce tensions, Zhao said that was to counter a “large amount of fake news” on the matter being circulated by Indian diplomats and the country’s media.

A nearly identical statement was issued by China’s Defense Ministry, which said Chinese troops had taken “defensive measures and determinedly counterattacked against the Indian side’s violent actions, successfully protecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

The tensions appear to be rooted in China’s objections to India building a road through a valley connecting the region to an airstrip, possibly sparking Beijing’s move to assert control over territory along the border that is not clearly defined in places.

In all, China claims some 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India’s northeast, including the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, with its traditionally Buddhist population. India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau in the western Himalayas, including part of the Ladakh region.

Philippine villagers brace as volcano grows restive

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine villagers near a restive volcano on a central island are bracing for possible evacuations that would require physical distancing because of the coronavirus pandemic, an official said Wednesday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said it detected dozens of small earthquakes on the western flank of Kanlaon volcano, which emitted plumes of steam up to 300 meters (980 feet) in the air overnight. Kanlaon on Negros island is one of about two dozen active volcanoes in the Philippines.

Those signs, along with a slight bulging of Kanlaon’s slope, “indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice,” the institute said. It added that the volcano “is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest.”

Zeaphard Caelian, who heads the disaster response agency in Negros Occidental province, said authori-

ties issued an initial alert in March after Kanlaon began showing signs of restiveness, which intensified last weekend.

More than 20,000 people in eight villages within 6 to 12 kilometers (4 to 7 miles) of Kanlaon would have to be evacuated if the volcano shows signs of an imminent eruption. Officials are identifying evacuation centers where physical distancing could be observed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Caelian said.

The Philippines has reported more than 32,000 confirmed coronavirus infections, including 1,204 deaths, among the highest in Southeast Asia.

The volcano-monitoring institute warned the public from venturing into a permanent 4-kilometer (2.4-mile) danger zone around Kanlaon due to possible sudden eruptions of steam. It advised airplanes to avoid flying close to the summit of the 2,465-meter (8,087-foot) mountain.

Singapore PM's brother joins opposition party ahead of polls

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong’s family feud has spilled into politics, with his estranged younger brother joining an opposition party ahead of general elections next month.

Lee Hsien Yang said Wednesday he has joined the Progress Singapore Party because he is concerned about issues such as governance and transparency, but declined to say whether he will run in the July 10 polls. The party was launched a year ago by former ruling party lawmaker Tan Cheng Bock.

“I joined the party because I think that Dr. Tan is committed to doing the right thing for Singapore,” he told reporters after meeting with Tan. “There are issues of income inequality, there are issues of poverty, there are issues of governance and transparency, there are issues around housing, there are many issues that are alive.”

The Lee brothers, whose

father Lee Kuan Yew was Singapore’s first prime minister and turned it into an affluent city-state, have engaged in a public spat since 2017 over the late patriarch’s family home.

Lee Hsien Yang and his sister Lee Wei Ling accused their eldest brother of abusing his power to stop them from demolishing the family home according to the wishes of their father, who died in 2015. They accused him of seeking to preserve the house to maintain his own political popularity and legitimacy. Lee Hsien Loong said the government should be allowed to decide whether to maintain the house as part of the national heritage and that he had no role in the decision.

Even with Lee Hsien Yang’s star power, the opposition is unlikely to seriously threaten the rule of the People’s Action Party, which has been in power since 1959 and currently holds 83 of the 89 parliamen-

tary seats.

The test will be whether the ruling party can retain the 69.9% share of the vote it received in 2015. The elections are expected to be the last for Prime Minister Lee, who plans to retire and hand over power to a new crop of leaders.

In a brief Facebook video message on Wednesday, Lee Hsien Yang said the governing party had “lost its way” and is “distinctly different” from when his father was prime minister. He called for financial support for the Progress Singapore Party so it can mount a serious challenge.

“It is possible to be loyal Singaporeans ... to love Singapore and yet to not vote PAP,” he said.

Lee Hsien Loong called for early elections on Tuesday, ahead of the end of his government’s five-year term next April, saying it is a good window now since the corona-

virus pandemic has stabilized and there is no assurance it will be over by next April. He said other countries such as South Korea have showed that elections can be held safely during the outbreak.

Singapore, which has 5.8 million people, was initially hailed as a model for containing the virus, but cases then soared to more than 42,000, one of the highest infection rates in Asia, with most linked to foreign workers’ dormitories. Officials said infections in the dorms have declined, while cases outside the dorms have stabilized.

Progress Singapore Party leader Tan on Wednesday said holding elections now is an “irresponsible act” that shows the prime minister is putting politics above public safety. His party welcomed the younger Lee into its fold and tweeted that “it’s time for a change.”

World

Arab League: Israeli annexation could ignite a religious war

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The head of the Arab League warned a high-level U.N. meeting Wednesday that Israel's annexation of parts of the West Bank would inflame tensions and endanger peace in the Middle East, and could ignite "a religious war in and beyond our region."

Ahmed Aboul Gheit, secretary-general of the 22-member organization, said annexation will also have "broader ramifications on the international security around the world."

"If implemented, Israeli annexation plans would not only be detrimental to the chances of peace today but will destroy any prospects for peace in the future," he told the Security Council. "Palestinians will lose faith in a negotiated solution, I'm afraid Arabs too will lose interest in regional peace. A new dark reality will set in vis a vis this conflict and in the region at large."

The council meeting came days ahead of the July 1 date that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition deal allows an annexation plan to be presented.

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war and has built dozens of settlements that are now home to nearly 500,000 Israelis, but it never formally claimed it as an Israeli territory due to stiff international opposition.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon told the council that "should Israel

decide to extend its sovereignty, it would be doing so with respect to areas over which it has always maintained a legitimate historical and legal claim."

The Palestinians, with wide international backing, seek the West Bank as the heartland of their future independent state. Most of the international community considers Israel's West Bank settlements illegal under international law.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the meeting with a call on Israel to abandon its annexation plans, an appeal echoed by almost all other speakers including half a dozen ministers and deputy ministers.

The U.N. chief said annexation "would constitute a most serious violation of international law, grievously harm the prospect of a two-state solution and undercut the possibilities of a renewal of negotiations."

Guterres urged the United States, the European Union and Russia to swiftly take up their mediation role along with the United Nations as part of the so-called Quartet "and find a mutually agreeable framework for the parties to re-engage, without preconditions, with us and other key states."

He also urged Israeli and Palestinian leaders "to commit to meaningful dialogue, with the support of the international community." And he encouraged regional and international



People take part in a protest against Israel's plan to annex parts of the West Bank and Trump's mideast initiative, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Tuesday, June 23, 2020. AP

al supporters of a two-state solution to help bring the parties back to a "path towards a negotiated, peaceful settlement."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell backed Quartet action in a letter to the Security Council obtained by AP that also said "unilateral annexation would inevitably have legal consequences for the international community's relations with Israel." A joint statement by six current and

incoming European members of the Security Council said "annexation would have consequences for our close relationship with Israel and would not be recognized by us."

In response to the threat of annexation, the Palestinian leadership has declared itself absolved of all agreements and understandings with Israel and the United States and halted all contacts. Nickolay Mladenov, the U.N. special coordinator for the Mideast peace process, warned the council that "this decision has had, and will increasingly have, a dramatic impact on all aspects of Palestinian daily life."

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Al-Malki said "we will stop acting as the Palestinian Authority" the moment Netanyahu declares "the annexation of one centimeter or 30 percent of the West Bank."

That means that full responsibility for the well-being and services for 4.5 million Palestinians will be turned back to Israel as the occupying power according to the Geneva conventions, he told the council and a press conference afterward.

The U.S. is Israel's closest ally and President Donald Trump's administration has taken a much softer line toward Israeli settlements than its predecessors.

Trump's Mideast plan, unveiled in January, envisions leaving some 30% of the West Bank territory under permanent Israeli control while giving the Palestinians expanded autonomy in the rest of the area. The Palestinians have rejected the plan, saying it is unfairly biased toward Israel.

With Trump's re-election prospects uncertain this November, Israeli hard-liners have urged prime minister Netanyahu to move ahead with annexation quickly.

Mexican president's plan to meet with Trump draws criticism

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday he plans to travel to Washington to meet with President Donald Trump, an announcement that was met with a storm of criticism in Mexico.

López Obrador said he wants to make his first trip abroad in the first week of July to mark the start of the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade accord, which was negotiated with the Trump administration.

Trump is deeply unpopular in Mexico because of his remarks about the country. And Mexicans remember former President Enrique Peña Nieto's ill-starred meeting with Trump that many feel strengthened Trump as a candidate in the 2016 election. Mexico's Foreign Relations Department then issued a statement saying López Obrador's administration wants to steer clear of the U.S. elections.

The two leaders have displayed surprisingly cordial re-

lations despite ideological differences. Trump said of López Obrador on Tuesday: "He's really a great guy. I think he'll be coming into Washington pretty soon." López Obrador has called Trump a friend and said his administration has shown respect for Mexico.

Roberto Velasco Álvarez, the Foreign Relations Department's director of North American affairs, wrote in his Twitter account that "Mexican diplomacy is based on building bridges with all people."

"The main objective of the meeting proposed by President López Obrador is promoting our interests, and is not related to internal (U.S.) political processes," Velasco Álvarez wrote.

The critics were out in force, though.

Mexico's former ambassador to the U.S., Arturo Sarukhán, called the trip "a colossal political, electoral, diplomatic and long-term strategic error."

"Trump is only interested in using the Mexican president as a theatrical prop for the elections," wrote Sarukhán. "For broad sectors of U.S. society, visiting Trump now, when the country is experiencing its deepest social and ideological crisis in 50 years ... will be interpreted by many here as a show of support for the most polarizing president in modern U.S. history."

Though he is famous in Mexico for declining international travel, López Obrador said early Wednesday that he wants to go to Washington. He said he hopes Canada will participate in the meeting as well, "but at any rate we will go because it is very important to participate at the launch of an agreement that I consider historic."

The president has studiously avoided conflict with Mexico's much larger neighbor, even after Trump threatened to put crippling tariffs on Mexican goods imported into the U.S. unless Mexico did more to stop migrant caravans.

Mexico effectively blocked the caravans.

Trump angered many Mexicans when as a candidate in 2016, he said Mexicans crossing the border brought drugs, crime and "tremendous infectious disease" to the U.S.. At the time, critics said Peña Nieto gave him a pulpit when he invited both U.S. candidates to Mexico City in 2016, but only Trump accepted. After taking office, Trump continued to promise to build a border wall and make Mexico pay for it.

In a recent piece for the Washington Post, Mexican columnist León Krauze wrote about the 2016 meeting, "Why would López Obrador, who was so critical of Peña Nieto's decision to prop up Trump during a contentious election, risk international opprobrium and condemnation at home over the exact same mistake?"

Krauze noted López Obrador hasn't yet discussed meeting with Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden.

Honduras president with COVID-19 and pneumonia is improving

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Doctors at Honduras' Military Hospital said Wednesday that President Juan Orlando Hernández was improving after being placed on oxygen a day earlier.

Hernández tested positive for COVID-19 last week and a day later was hospitalized with pneumonia.

In a statement Wednesday, his medical team said that on Tuesday his pneumonia appeared to be worsening with greater inflammation in his lungs and falling oxygen levels. A decision was made to give him oxygen.

Doctors said Hernández's

exam Wednesday showed improvement. He did not have a fever or difficulty breathing and the inflammation in his lungs had decreased.

Hernández's wife, Ana García de Hernández, had also tested positive. Doctors said she continued following medical advice at home.

Honduras has reported nearly 14,000 confirmed COVID-19 infections and more than 400 deaths.

Infections have been increasing since the government started the partial reopening of the economy June 8. Infections have more than doubled since then.

Off The Wall

Man wins \$4M lotto again

SOUTH ROCKWOOD, Mich. (AP)—How does he do it? For the second time, a southeastern Michigan man has won a \$4 million lottery game, officials said Monday.

Mark Clark of South Rockwood scratched a ticket with a coin that was given to him by his late father about 10 years ago. They often fished

together after Clark won a different \$4 million instant game in 2017.

"You don't think you'll win millions once, and you definitely never think it would happen twice," Clark, 50, said in a statement released by the Michigan Lottery. "It's hard to put into words exactly what I am feeling. ...

I can't help but think maybe that lucky coin helped me win this."

Clark chose a lump sum of about \$2.5 million instead of taking \$4 million in payments over time.

"I've had a lot of ups and a lot of downs in my life, but everything is pretty amazing right now," Clark said.

Woman sues for paternity test on goats

ODESSA, Fla. (AP)—A Florida woman has filed a lawsuit seeking either a paternity test on her goats or a refund—and she's not kidding.

Kris Hedstrom filed the suit against her neighbor, Heather Dayner, last month seeking DNA for the goats she purchased. Hedstrom paid Dayner \$900 for five Nigerian dwarf goats in December.

According to the lawsuit, Hedstrom believed the goats—Bella, Gigi, Rosie,

Zelda and Margoat—could be registered with the American Dairy Goat Association, a group that records goat pedigrees. Registered goats have higher values than unregistered goats.

Dayner, who has been selling goats at Baxter Lane Farm for about 10 years, typically provides information to her clients so they can register their animals themselves.

She said the father goat was registered, but the Tam-

pa Bay Times reports the American Dairy Goat Association rejected Hedstrom's application to register the babies because Dayner is not an active member.

Proving paternity would require about 40 of the father goat's hair follicles for a DNA test, so Hedstrom wrote Dayner a letter requesting the DNA in February.

Dayner offered to refund the money in exchange for the goats.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Carjacker sits on driver, leads officers on chase

EWING, N.J. (AP)—A man forced his way into a vehicle, sat on the driver and took off, pinning her on the seat while leading officers on a chase that began in New Jersey and ended in Pennsylvania, police said. Tomasz Dymek, 31, of the Astoria neighborhood of Queens in New York City, was soliciting money in a drug store parking lot Thursday when a 66-year-old woman gave him \$1, Ewing police said. "Dymek was not satisfied with the dollar so he forced his way into the victim's vehicle and drove from the lot, sitting on top of her in the driver's seat," police said in a news release. The woman remained pinned under Dymek as he drove, and she could not hit the brakes, authorities said. Callers alerted police, who pursued the vehicle into Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, where it became disabled. Police arrested Dymek as he fled on foot. He faces extradition and criminal and motor vehicle charges.

Sausage, onion and iguana: Dead reptile found in pizza joint

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—File it under pizza toppings only offered in Florida. State inspectors found an 80-pound (36-kilogram) iguana stashed in the freezer at a local pizza joint. Pizza Mambo in West Palm Beach was forced to close for a day last week following the inspection by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The restaurant could not be reached

for comment, but an employee told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that the reptile was given as a personal gift to the owner. It was stored in a separate freezer away from the restaurant's food and was immediately trashed after they were informed it was a violation. The reptile is considered a delicacy by some. One company even makes iguana sausages and burgers.

Swimmer caught on video grabbing shark at Delaware beach

LEWES, Del. (AP) — A swimmer in Delaware was caught on camera prying a shark's mouth open with his hands this weekend in an effort to free it from a fishing hook. The video shows the man grabbing onto the shark at a beach in Cape Henlopen State Park. He went into the water to unhook it after another person caught it, the Daily Times of Salisbury reported Tuesday. "Everyone started yelling, 'Shark, shark, get out of the water!'" said Delaware native Rachael Foster, who shared her video on social media. "It was so crazy, like a movie. Like Jaws." State law prohibits people from keeping sand tiger and sandbar sharks if caught. People must release them immediately. The newspaper reported park rangers were on site Sunday to assist and monitor the situation. Earlier this month, a boy was hospitalized for puncture wounds after he was possibly bitten by a shark in the park. The boy, 12, was surfing when something bit his leg. Officials then temporarily closed the park's

Herring Point to surfing and swimming. Shark attacks are rare. The Florida Museum of Natural History recorded 41 confirmed unprovoked shark attacks in the U.S. last year. The cases represented 64% of the worldwide total.

Roaming mountain lion caught in downtown San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A young mountain lion that had been spotted sleeping in a planter box along a normally busy street and looking at his reflection in the glass of an office tower in downtown San Francisco was safely captured Thursday and released into the wild, officials said. The disoriented cougar roamed the streets for two days until he was spotted by a police officer near Oracle Park, home of the San Francisco Giants, said Officer Adam Lobsinger, a police spokesman. Officers set up a perimeter and waited for animal control officials to arrive. They safely captured the 50-pound cat in an apartment building's green area with lots of shrubbery without the use of sedatives, Animal Care and Control spokeswoman Deb Campbell said. "In 24 hours, it only moved a few blocks. The poor guy really needed some help," she said. Campbell said officials get reports of cougars in San Francisco about once a year. The animals come up along the Pacific Coast from the hills south of the city but eventually find their way back to the wilderness. "We never had a mountain lion right in the middle of downtown San Francisco," Campbell said.

Science & Technology

Tech Q&A: How to keep an idle Web browser connected

Q: I use the Safari web browser on my MacBook Pro, and typically have several tabs (separate screens showing different web pages) open at the same time. One of these tabs is always the Google search page. But when I return to the Google search tab, the page is sometimes inactive, which means I can't type in a new search request until I reload the page. What's causing this?

A: Apple's Safari browser allows you to have multiple tabs open at once. But if you leave any one of those tabs idle for 20 minutes, it will "session time out," meaning that Safari will deactivate that web page. Once deactivated, a web page won't respond.

This time out is rather unforgiving. The idle browser tab will time out even if you are actively doing something on another tab of the browser or scrolling through the idle web page.

The solution is to "refresh" the idle tab (which reloads the website) by clicking the curved arrow icon at the right side of the Web address bar.

If you would rather avoid

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

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the time-out problem, switch to the Google Chrome browser (see tinyurl.com/zkukxzy). It also has a time-out feature. But by installing a browser add-on program (or "extension") called "Staying Alive" (see tinyurl.com/zjcx48o) you can keep your connection to a website open indefinitely. (Staying Alive automatically requests additional web pages from the website to keep the connection active.)

Q: I've been searching for a way to increase the small text size in some Windows 10 menus, such as System Restore, and in the e-mail list of the Mozilla Thunderbird program. People with vision problems find this super-small text difficult to read.

A: Windows 10 has a built-in feature called "Mag-

nifier" that enlarges anything on your screen, including the small-print menus.

The magnifier can either be used full-screen or as a floating magnifying glass that you can move with your cursor. You can turn Magnifier on by holding down the "Windows" key and pressing the plus sign (+) key. To turn it off, hold down the Windows key and press the ESC (escape) key. You can zoom in or out with the plus or minus icons on the Magnifier app, a small window that remains open when Magnifier is in use. (See tinyurl.com/ydxxuavc and tinyurl.com/yd3rfkxm).

Several readers have asked why the on-screen cursor arrow jumps around on Windows 10 laptops. The problem isn't caused by the mouse, but by the overly sensitive touch pad that allows users to direct the cursor when a mouse isn't available. Just hovering your hand over the touch pad during typing can cause it to redirect the cursor in unpredictable ways.

The solution is to set the PC to disable the touch pad whenever a mouse is plugged in. Go to Control Panel, click "hardware and sound" and under "devices and printers" click "mouse." In the resulting menu, click the tab farthest to the right (it has different names depending on the computer manufacturer.) In the menu listing your touch pad, check the box beside "disable when external USB pointing device plug in." (For details, see tinyurl.com/y6kquar2).

Try This

Soda bottle thermometer

Make a simple thermometer out of an old soft drink bottle:

You'll need

- Soft drink bottle
- Food coloring
- Clear or light-colored plastic straw
- Modeling clay
- Marker
- Deep pan or pot
- Regular glass thermometer

- 1 Fill bottle with water and some coloring
- 2 Put clay 2 in. (5 cm) from end of straw and push onto bottle; don't let straw rest on bottom
- 3 Water will rise above clay; let bottle sit at room temperature until water level stops changing
- 4 Mark water level in straw, check room temperature with glass thermometer and write that temperature at your mark
- 5 Put bottle in pot of hot tap water, wait until water stops rising in straw, check temperature of water with thermometer and mark that on straw

What happened?

You now have calibrated your bottle thermometer with two known temperatures

Make equally spaced marks between those numbers, plus a few above and below them, and you have a home-made thermometer

Source: "Science Wizardry for Kids"
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas and Paul Trap, TNS 2020

Life & Style

Back to grindstone for 'Mona Lisa' at post-lockdown Louvre

PARIS (AP)—The "Mona Lisa" found herself all alone. The coronavirus had emptied her room at the Louvre Museum of its usual throngs of admirers.

In a silence worthy of a cathedral, she could gaze undisturbed at the huge canvas on the opposite wall, "The Wedding Feast at Cana" that shows Christ surrounded by 130 feast-goers, painted centuries before social distancing became a thing.

But now, sigh, the world's most famous portrait must go back to the grindstone after four months of virus-imposed inactivity.

Even with that famously enigmatic smile, the job of luring back crowds to the world's most-visited museum promises to be tough.

Before mass tourism came

to a screeching halt with the coronavirus pandemic, the Louvre drew 30,000 to 50,000 visitors per day in the busy summer season. But when it reopens July 6, the museum director expects those numbers to shrivel.

"If we get 10,000 per day, I'd be very surprised," says Jean-Luc Martinez.

Which means, for those who can manage a trip to Paris, a golden opportunity for a rare, crowd-free run of the Louvre's giant galleries and vast marble staircases and maybe even some uninterrupted face-time with "Mona Lisa" herself.

About 70% of the giant museum—45,000 square meters (484,000 square feet) of space, or the equivalent of 230 tennis courts—will be open, housing 30,000 of the Louvre's vast



Journalists stand in front of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa during a visit of the Louvre museum ahead of its reopening next July 6, in Paris, Tuesday, June 23, 2020. AP

trove of works. Plenty to give visitors aching feet.

For Louvre employees who during lockdown kept the suddenly empty building and its treasures safe under lock and key, reopening marks the end of their other-worldly experience of having the former royal palace all to themselves.

"It was quite magical," said Leila Cherif-Hadria, who had

never seen the museum so empty in her 20 years of working there.

"A moment suspended in time. It was very pleasant. We didn't see any ghosts. But we were alone for a long time without any sounds. It was quite peculiar, destabilizing, unknown for us. We knew we were experiencing something unique and which, I hope, will never be repeated but which

we savored."

The lockdown loss of ticket and souvenir sales and other income punched a 40 million euro (\$45 million) hole in the museum's revenues. Martinez, the museum director, can't say when visitor numbers might recover. Almost three-quarters of the Louvre's 9.6 million visitors last year came from

abroad, many of them from countries, led by the United States and China, that have since been cut off from the European Union during the pandemic.

Visitor numbers also plunged, by 40%, after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States and "took three years to come back," Martinez noted.

'Isolation Stories' turns lens on actors at home, pandemic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Jeff Pope and his family were sickened by COVID-19, getting well was the first concern. That accomplished, the British writer-producer decided to

make timely art out of the pandemic's burdens.

"It really drove home to me how something like this was being played out in millions of homes. We didn't really have the big picture,

just what was in front of us," Pope said. "That was the inspiration for 'Isolation Stories,' which was a kaleidoscopic approach to what was happening."

In the limited series

streaming on BritBox, a quartet of 15-minute films offer slice-of-life takes on people under the quarantine's thumb, including a pregnant woman abandoned by her married lover; a son tending his ill father; a hypochondriac in counseling and a family man with a crumbling marriage.

To make the series, Pope reached out in late March to writers, directors and actors who also wanted to add their voices to the virtual public square and, most importantly, do so quickly.

"We wanted to film stories about lockdown in the middle of lockdown, in the teeth of it, and for it to be broadcast while we were still experiencing it," Pope said. "So it really is a time capsule, accurately reflecting what we were going through for that period, hopefully brief period, in time."

Eddie Marsan ("Ray Donovan," "Deadpool 2"), who plays the embittered spouse in one of the self-contained episodes, said he welcomed the project as "something we could be proud of doing."

Shakira, Dwayne Johnson highlight global coronavirus equity concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Dwayne Johnson will host and Shakira, Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Hudson will perform on a globally broadcast concert calling on world leaders to make coronavirus tests and treatment available and equitable for all.

The advocacy organization Global Citizen and the European Commission announced Monday that Global Goal: Unite for Our Future—The Concert will air on June 27.

Other artists performing in isolation include Usher, Justin Bieber, Coldplay and Chloe x Halle.

The concert will also feature appearances from Billy Porter, Charlize Theron, Chris Rock, Kerry Washington, Salma Hayek and David Beckham.

It will be broadcast on NBC in the U.S. and other television stations, radio stations, websites and streaming outlets around the world.

"The event aims to lift up the global community that is tackling equitable access to healthcare, and other enormous injustices facing our world," Johnson said in a statement.

Organizers say the show is not a fundraiser, but is instead intended to draw awareness to the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on marginalized communities.

"Global Citizens around the world are calling for systemic change, change that brings about justice for everyone, everywhere, regardless of where they were born or the color of their skin," organization founder Hugh Evans said in a statement. "If we are to end COVID-19 for all, we need our world leaders to commit the billions of dollars needed to equitably deliver testing, treatments and vaccines."

The concert will follow Global Goal: United for Our Future—The Summit, an streaming event featuring panel discussions and interviews by journalists like Katie Couric that's also meant to be "a global pledging moment where world leaders, corporations and philanthropists will announce new commitments" to help equitably distribute tests, treatments and vaccines, as well as rebuild communities, the statement said.



This image released by BritBox shows, from left, David Threlfall, Eddie Marsan and his sons Blu Marsan, foreground center, and Bodhi Marsan, who appear in "Isolation Stories," a series of four short dramas depicting life in lockdown, produced by Oscar nominated writer and producer Jeff Pope. The series is streaming on BritBox. AP

Disney delays Southern California theme park reopenings

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Disney is postponing the mid-July reopening of its Southern California theme parks until it receives guidelines from the state, the company announced Wednesday.

Disney had hoped to reopen Disneyland and Disney California Adventure in Anaheim on July 17 after a four-month closure due to the coronavirus. But the state has indicated it won't issue guidelines until after July 4, the company said.

"Given the time required for us to bring thousands of cast members back to work and restart our business, we have no choice but to delay the reopening of our theme parks and resort hotels until we receive approval from government officials," Disney said in a statement.

The company didn't provide a new reopening date. The parks closed on March 14 and the reopening requires government approval.



Gov. Gavin Newsom "appreciates Disney's responsiveness to his concerns about reopening amid the recent increases in COVID-19 infec-

tions across many Southern California counties," Newsom spokesman Nathan Click said. "The governor, the state and our public health experts con-

tinue to be in contact with the company and their workers—as well as other theme parks in the state—as we track and combat the spread of the virus."

In this March 13, 2020, file photo, visitors take photos at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif.

Disney also said it is still negotiating agreements with employee unions, some of which have raised safety concerns about the reopenings. Disney said it has signed agreements from 20 union affiliates representing more than 11,000 em-

ployees, detailing enhanced safety protocols.

Disney also will delay the planned July 23 reopening of its Grand Californian and Paradise Pier hotels.

The Downtown Disney District restaurant and shopping area will reopen on July 9 as previously planned "with health and safety protocols in place for our cast members and guests," Disney said.

Don DeLillo novel 'The Silence' coming in October

NEW YORK (AP)—Don DeLillo will have something to say this fall about fear and isolation.

The 83-year-old author known for imagining disaster in "White Noise," "End Zone" and other works has a novel coming in October that takes place in 2022 amid a digital shutdown in New York City. The book is called "The Silence," Scribner announced Wednesday.

"I began writing the novel

in 2018, long before the current pandemic," DeLillo said in a statement. "I started with a vision of empty streets in Manhattan. The idea of the silence grew from sentence to sentence, from one chapter to the next."

DeLillo's other books include "Libra," "Underworld" and "The Names." His many honors include a National Book Award and the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

Prince William visits Oxford vaccine development facilities

LONDON (AP)—Prince William has visited Oxford University's coronavirus vaccine development facilities to learn more about researchers' work there.

The royal was given a tour Wednesday of the manufacturing laboratory where the experimental vaccine has been

produced. He also looked at a laboratory where samples from the clinical trial are being examined by researchers.

The trials began April 23 and 10,000 people in the U.K. are in the process of being vaccinated to assess the potential success of the treatment. Trials

also began this week in Brazil and South Africa.

Oxford has agreed a global licensing agreement with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, which has struck deals with the U.S., U.K., the European Union, among others, to produce and supply the

potential vaccine.

Researchers aim to eventually make the vaccine available globally on a non-profit basis, including to low-income countries.

Other vaccines are also in development and undergoing trials elsewhere, including in the U.S. and France.

'World's Toughest Race' in Fiji to debut Aug. 14 on Amazon

LONDON (AP)—Bear Grylls said he was brought to tears by the determination of competitors on "World's Toughest Race: Eco-Challenge Fiji" as they raced through jungles and over mountains to the point of exhaustion and pain.

The series' new 10-episode season, hosted by Grylls and with 66 teams from 30 countries, will debut Aug. 14 on Amazon

Prime Video, it was announced Wednesday. The episodes were taped last fall, before the coronavirus pandemic hit.

The nonstop race with 330 competitors was held for 11 days and across more than 400 miles. It was difficult to see racers drop out after spending so much time and energy in preparation, Grylls said.

"But at the same time,

those that endured, whether or not they won, it wasn't really about the winning," he said. "This is an expedition with a stopwatch, is how I always kind of see this, and just to complete it is a huge achievement."

"I unashamedly wept at times, seeing the effort and what it meant to these people," said Grylls, an adventurer who

starred in the survival series "Man vs. Wild."

Grylls noted the field's diversity, including the first fully African American team competing internationally. Another American squad includes Mark Macy, a past Eco-Challenge competitor who has since been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and his son, Travis.

Atlanta reality TV star charged with misusing relief funds

ATLANTA (AP)—A reality television star who appeared on the show "Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta" was indicted Wednesday for allegedly using coronavirus relief funds intended to help small businesses survive to pay for luxuries such as a Rolls-Royce and custom jewelry, federal officials said.

In a news release, the Department of Justice said Maurice Fayne, 37, was charged with bank fraud, making a false statement to a federally insured financial institution and money laundering.

The charges are related to the Paycheck Protection

Program, a federal program designed to help small businesses make ends meet while they were closed or severely restricted because of the coronavirus. He's also charged with wire fraud in connection with a Ponzi scheme, the release said.

"Despite the difficult times the recent Coronavirus pandemic has caused, the FBI and our federal partners continue to be vigilant in making sure funds provided by programs like PPP are used as intended," Chris Hacker, the special agent in charge of the Atlanta FBI office, said in the news release.

Man's unsure mental health clouds vision of the future

DEAR ABBY: I recently started dating again after ending a very difficult marriage. To say I am guarding my heart for fear of getting hurt would be an understatement.

I have met someone that I can see having a future with, but some things concern me. He has been hospitalized for mental health reasons in the past. He's constantly saying, "I'm sorry I'm so screwed up" or remarking about being "crazy." He mentions his depression almost daily, and he hates being, as he puts it, "messed up in the head." He just can't seem to move past his issues.

I feel like he doesn't want to move forward and start living his life again. I have lived with depression for most of my life, but it doesn't define who I am. If I don't respond to his calls or messages right away, he gets hurt and assumes I'm mad at him.

My question is, am I being overly cautious based on not wanting to get hurt again, or should I take a step back? I would like to see a future with him, but I'm not sure he is ready to see any kind of a future with anyone.

GUARDED HEART

DEAR GUARDED HEART: You are not being overly cautious. You are asking yourself intelligent, insightful questions about someone who appears not as far along on the path to mental wellness as you are. Is this man still being treated for his issues? If not, he should be encouraged to talk

with a licensed mental health professional not only about his depression, but also his glaring lack of self-esteem.

From your description, I would have to say he needs a friend now more than a romance, so take plenty of time if you proceed in this relationship. If he makes progress, see where things lead. If not, then in light of your own history, it might be better for you to find someone who is stronger.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a six-year relationship. About two years into it, I found out that "Wayne" was separated, but not divorced, from his wife of 20 years. The fact that they are separated is not the issue. They live together and do things as a married couple. The wife and I have met each other several times, and I have gone to his children's graduation parties and family weddings.

He has told me every year that this is the year he will file for divorce, but it still hasn't happened. I don't know why he is holding on because I do not believe they are intimate. Their children are adults, so there is nothing keeping them together. He tells me he can't live without me, but his actions have proven otherwise. Do you think they are in an open marriage? Is there any hope for our future together?

WASTING TIME IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR WASTING TIME: Not at the rate you are going.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I suspect the reason Wayne hasn't followed through and filed for divorce may be financial. He and his wife may also like things just the way they are because they can maintain their social life, he's comfortable at home and he has you to sleep with, which may be a relief to her. You have my sympathy, but I think you have invested enough time. What's going on is unfair to you. This romance was based on dishonesty on his part, and you deserve more than you have been getting.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



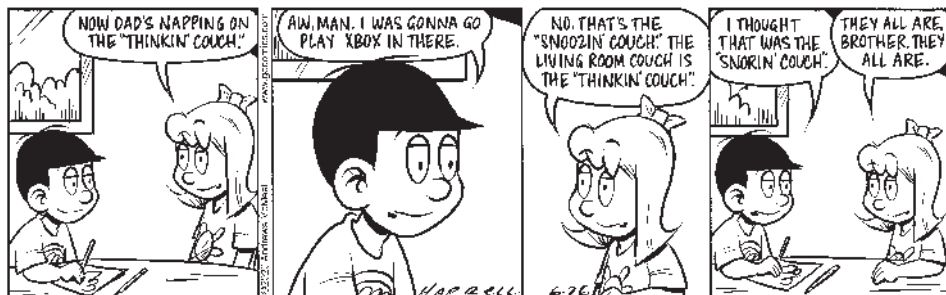
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



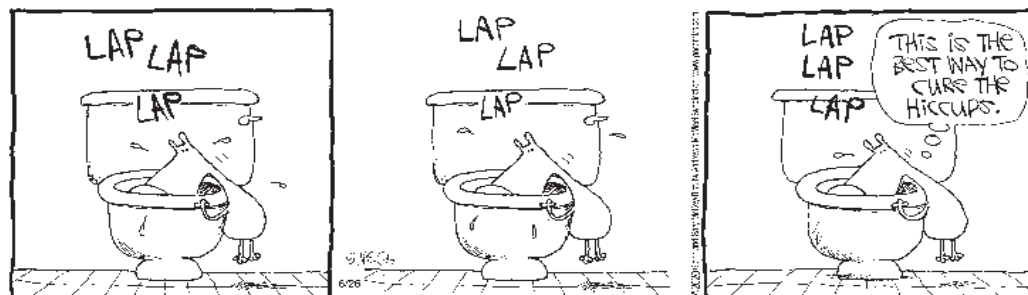
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Walgreens alternative
4 Leary's drug
7 Hot dog side dish
12 Gym unit
13 Discoverer's call
14 American living overseas
15 Goof up
16 Culture Club lead singer
18 Khan title
19 Beauty parlor
20 Lock openers
22 Beirut's land (Abbr.)
23 Miles away
27 —
29 Clara Bow's nickname
31 Furniture polish scent
34 Ceremonies
35 Dugout assistant
37 Scoot

DOWN

1 Floor-board
2 Brink
3 Perfume type
4 High tennis shots
5 Sandbars
6 Holmes' creator
7 "— there, done that"
8 Outer (Pref.)
9 Earth Day mo.
10 Pester
11 Sault —
12 Marie
17 Asian desert
21 Messy folks
23 Getting on
24 In shape
25 Exist
26 "Kid-napped" monogram
28 Lennon's lady
30 Capote nickname
31 JFK's veep
32 Perfume label word
33 PTA session
36 Yin counter-part
37 Cover anew, as a gift
40 Hairstyles
42 Hood-winked
43 Sky blue
44 "Holy smokes!"
45 Pretzel topper
46 Do in
48 Binge
49 Swiss canton
50 "Chandelier" singer
51 Sawbuck

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	C	A	A	R	P	S	A	U	L
I	N	A	U	N	T	O	I	D	E	
C	A	N	I	S	T	E	R	N	A	N
A	R	T	S	T	I	G	M	A	S	
I	S	R	A	E	L	S	C	I		
M	O	I	N	G	O	U	N	C	E	
A	M	E	S	L	A	G	A	I	T	
M	A	S	T	S	B	O	B	N	E	A
			A	I	M	V	E	G	O	U
V	O	N	S	T	O	P	H	O	N	
J	T	A	H	C	A	N	A	D	I	A
L	O	S	E	H	O	T	V	Z	O	O
L	E	A	D	A	S	H	E	E	M	

Yesterday's answer 6-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariana Grande, 27; Ryan Tedder, 41; Derek Jeter, 46; Chris O'Donnell, 50.

Happy Birthday: You'll be in your comfort zone this year, spending more time and money at and on your residence. Make your surroundings compatible with changing times, and restructure the way you work and take care of your everyday responsibilities. An innovative approach will ensure that you gain ground, no matter what you decide to tackle. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 28, 30, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen carefully. Facts matter, and relaying information to the best of your ability will affect your reputation and the way others receive you. Charm alone won't win the prize. Knowledge, integrity and truth will be required. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Uncertainty will lead to a change of heart. Look at situations practically, and you'll find a way to get what you want without the risk. Use your intelligence to motivate others to pitch in and help. Make unique plans with someone you love. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do something constructive that will challenge and encourage you to take better care of your health. Restrict indulgent behavior or letting others use blackmail to entice you into something that isn't good for you. Put health and personal growth first. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for an outlet that you find gratifying. Consider how best to market a service you can

offer. Change your life to reflect what's going on around you. Embrace love and what brings you peace of mind. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do what's best for you. Put your health and safety first. Distance yourself from anyone trying to talk you into something excessive. It's best to settle down and enjoy what you have, not take a chance on something that lacks a safety net. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sensitive issues dealt with a heart-to-heart talk will improve. Facing facts, being open to suggestions and making a few yourself will encourage a positive turn of events that will bring you happiness and confidence. Aim high and enjoy the ride. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Initiate what you want to happen. Don't let anyone bully you into doing something you don't want to do. Make your intentions clear, and pour your energy into pursuing the goals that will bring you the highest returns personally and financially. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend time improving your skills, attributes and knowledge. The information and techniques you gather will give you the fuel you need to make a substantial change to the way you work, take care of yourself and live. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Question anything that concerns you. Don't act on an assumption; get the facts straight from the source. Make a decision based on truth. A positive financial adjustment will put your mind at ease and encourage you to start something new. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the plunge; do the things you keep talking about but never follow through on. It will open a doorway to all sorts of exciting options. Embrace change, and it will lead you on an adventurous path. Partnerships look promising. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take more time to nurture yourself. Being at your best requires you to do things that build you up, prepare you for success and make you feel confident enough to pursue your dreams. Don't give in to negativity. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to basics, avoid emotional situations that can lead to a stalemate and focus on personal progress. Consider what you want, and find the best way to make it happen. Control the outcome instead of waiting for someone to take over. ***

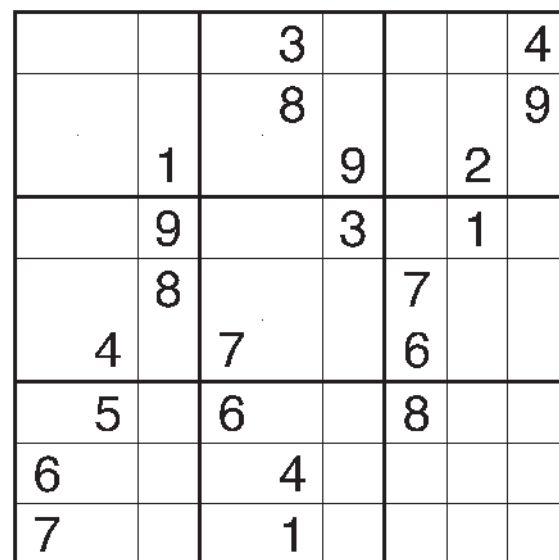
Birthday Baby: You are analytical, disciplined and possessive. You are helpful and persuasive.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	3	2	5	4	1	9	6
2	1	4	8	6	9	3	5	7
5	6	9	3	7	1	2	8	4
7	4	5	6	1	8	9	2	3
6	3	2	5	9	7	8	4	1
1	9	8	4	2	3	7	6	5
3	5	6	7	8	2	4	1	9
4	2	1	9	3	5	6	7	8
9	8	7	1	4	6	5	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★

6/26

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WAKE UP

Solution: 11 letters

T L R O U S E D N U O S G O H
S A O A L C E L N S R A T S Y
E M G A D K Y E L W N S N E G
R P T O A A V C R O A O C Y I
B E U W Y O R D L F R Y O E E
L E A E M D M E K E P D U Z N
A L H D K O U A F P A R C R E
N S S L Y A E T A R N E H P T
K O A L A R M H S M E S N A U
E F L A B O D C E U O S I J M
T A F C R R O T N Z N O H A M
S R T N E F R E L E A R N M O
E I I A F E A R O M A G I A C
U N M E L A C T I V A T E S G
G G E A B R O S B A Y L R A E

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6/26

Absorb, Activate, Alarm, Alert, Aroma, Awake, Blanket, Breakfast, Call, Coffee, Commute, Couch, Cycle, Dream, Dress, Early, Eyes, Flash, Free, Gaze, Guest, Happy, Hygiene, Lamp, Late, Learn, Makeup, Moon, Morning, Move, Nap, Pajamas, Radar, Ready, Refresh, Rest, Ring, Roll, Roused, Sleep, Snooze, Snore, Sofa, Sound, Stars, Stretch, Study, Sunrise, Time, Yawn, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Cousins

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand.

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STUMPED?

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No salary for MLB players opting out



NEW YORK

(AP)—Major

League Baseball is officially back on, but COVID-19 continues to put players in difficult positions.

According to MLB's 101-page COVID-19 operations manual, players who are designated as high-risk by a team doctor will be able to opt out of the season and still receive service time and salary, but MLB will not universally extend the same benefits to players who wish to opt out due to a high-risk family member.

Pay and service time for players not designated high-risk themselves is not addressed in the manual, though teams will get to decide whether or not to pay those players.

This is contrary to what was originally reported that players with high-risk family members, including a pregnant spouse, would be able to opt out of the season but still be paid.

MLB's policy isn't that much different than what the NBA is doing for its Orlando restart, as players who opt out of that will also be giving up salary. MLB's plan, however, requires players to assume vastly more risk. The NBA is resuming its season in a highly monitored "bubble" at ESPN's Wide World of Sports campus, with players and their families staying in hotels while their movements are logged. MLB's plan includes no bubble (and therefore less monitoring) and lots of regional travel, which puts the onus on the players to keep themselves healthy while they're required to do things in inherently risky environments.

This policy puts a number of MLB players in tough positions. Some of the sport's brightest and most popular stars have pregnant wives due to give birth in the next few months, including Mike Trout, Bryce Harper, Gerrit Cole and Zack Wheeler. Some others have a family member with an underlying health condition that makes them more susceptible to the effects of the coronavirus.

Eireann Dolan, who is married to Washington Nationals reliever Sean Doolittle, has asthma, and she's been very outspoken about the tough choice that she and her husband have to make. If he plays, he's putting her at risk of catching COVID-19, or they'll have to be separated for the duration of the season. If he doesn't play, he'll be giving up service time and salary.

The manual agreed upon by the league and players union Tuesday night does include



In this Oct. 27, 2019 file photo, Washington Nationals relief pitcher Sean Doolittle throws during the seventh inning of Game 5 of the World Series against the Houston Astros in Washington.

ing average attendance.

"In my opinion, it's a damn shame that the ramifications of this are going to be felt for a long time," said Cincinnati catcher Tucker Barnhart, the Reds' player representative. "I grew up a baseball fan, I'm a baseball fan first, and I think it sucks that it's had to go on the way that it is. But I hope that getting out and playing will kind of mask some of the bruises that the game as a whole has taken over the last few months."

MLB intends to start without fans in ballparks, even in places where government and medical officials allow some spectators.

"I think we need to get on the ground running and get comfortable that we can play games in empty stadiums safely before we move forward fans," Manfred said. "My patience in that regard is in part based on the fact that there are so many different situations. Some places there looks like there's no prospect, other places they're more aggressive. I think we need to be patient and even where we have the option, we need to make sure that we know exactly what we're doing before we jump into it."

Owners decided to go ahead with a season despite the threat of a grievance from the union, which has claimed MLB did not adhere to provisions in the March 26 agreement requiring the longest schedule economically feasible. That deal also included additional provisions such as fans being allowed into all 30 ballparks and no relevant travel restrictions.

a section about families and household members, but only pledges to provide them with personal protective equipment, testing and education.

"The health and wellbeing of family members of players, umpires, and other Club personnel is paramount to MLB. MLB will provide family members or other members of Covered Individuals' households with appropriate PPE, education, and access to regular testing (see Section 2.1.5 above). Team Physicians should also offer to advise on (or assist with arrangements for) the care and treatment of any family or household members who are symptomatic or have come into close contact with a Covered Individual who tests positive for COVID-19," the manual stated.

Manfred: We owe it to our fans to be better

Rob Manfred knows many fans were angered by the financial fight between MLB and the players' association during a pandemic.

"We need to get back on the field, and we need to in a less-charged environment start to have conversations about how we—and the we in that sentence is the commissioner's office, my staff, the clubs and the MLBPA and the players—can be better going forward," he said Wednesday during an

interview with The Associated Press. "We owe it to our fans to be better than we've been the last three months."

Spring training was cut short by the novel coronavirus on March 12. The sides reached an initial agreement on March 26, which was to have been opening day. That deal called for players to receive prorated salaries, get \$170 million in advances and receive a guarantee of service time in the event no games were played this year.

When it became clear the only way to start the season was to play in empty ballparks,

the sides battled publicly over what the agreement meant.

Owners said players needed to accept additional cuts and proposed an 82-game schedule starting around the Fourth of July. Players argued they shouldn't have to accept less than the original deal called for. But that agreement didn't bind Manfred to start the season with no gate revenue.

Vitriol rose in baseball's worst infighting since the 7 1/2-month strike of 1994-95 wiped out the World Series for the first time in nine decades. The union rejected the last proposal for a financial agree-

ment, then finished protocols to play in the pandemic on Tuesday and promised players will start reporting July 1 for a 60-game season scheduled to start July 23 or 24, MLB's briefest since 1878.

"The focus here was on a day's wage for a day's worth of work," union head Tony Clark said during a separate interview with the AP. "That's what we believed was fair, and that's why we maintained the position that we did."

In the view of many, the outcome left losers on both sides. MLB already has experienced four straight seasons of declin-

MLS teams arriving in Florida, tournament schedule set

ORLANDO (AP)—Major League Soccer will open its World Cup-style return tournament in Florida on July 8 with a double header.

Orlando City will play expansion Inter Miami in the first match, followed by a game between the Chicago Fire and Nashville SC. The games will be the first time the league has been in action since play was shut down on March 12 because of the coronavirus.

The all-Florida opener is a nod to the tournament's host state. All games will be played without fans in attendance at the sports complex at Walt Disney World.

The league released the schedule Wednesday, the first day teams could arrive at the complex near Orlando for the tournament. The San Jose Earthquakes, who were limited in practice by local restrictions, were the first team to travel to Florida.

Earthquakes players will be tested upon arrival and then quarantined for 24 hours while awaiting the results.

MLS will be the second pro team league in the United States to return to the field. The National Women's Soccer League will play a tournament in Utah starting Saturday.

The 26 MLS teams will be divided into six groups for the opening round of the tournament, which will be played over 16 consecutive days. Group matches will count toward the regular-season standings.

Among the highlights of the group stage is a match between the LA Galaxy and LAFC on July 18, and a Canadian rivalry match between the Montreal Impact and Toronto FC on July 15. The defending champion Seattle Sounders open play against the Earthquakes on July 10.

Sixteen teams will advance to the knockout round, with

the winner of the title game on Aug. 11 earning a spot in the 2021 CONCACAF Champions League.

The teams and select staff members will be sequestered during the tournament at two Disney resorts for the duration of the tournament.

U.S. national team players Megan Rapinoe, Tobin Heath and Christen Press have opted out of the National Women's Soccer League tournament kicking off this weekend in Utah.

Heath and Press, who played with Rapinoe on the champion World Cup team last summer in France, cited concerns about the coronavirus.



49ers' goal: It's Super Bowl or bust



CALIFORNIA—When a team allows a 10-point lead to get away in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl, it does not leave much room for what is considered a success the following year.

That's where the 49ers were in February. They led the Kansas City Chiefs 20-10. Then, the offense sputtered and the defense allowed three touchdowns in the final seven minutes.

The 49ers return for the 2020 season with their last memory coming from walking off the field at Super Bowl LIV with Andy Reid's Chiefs celebrating.

"I know we were good enough to win that Super Bowl and we didn't, and that's something we have to live with," coach Kyle Shanahan said during the 49ers State of the Franchise event.

"And that's why the state of the franchise right now is we got to get right back to that moment. We got to get right back to that fourth quarter and get to have a lead and we got to finish the job."

Shanahan said he is eagerly anticipating the opening of training camp, which will be the first time he has seen the players on the field after the Super Bowl disappointment.

The 49ers finished with a 13-3 record and won the NFC West. The team cruised through the NFC playoffs before losing to Kansas City. The on-field portion of NFL offseason programs was wiped out due to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"I didn't want to go through this offseason. I want to get right back to where we left on in February and I know we



In this Feb. 2, 2020 file photo, the San Francisco 49ers' Kendrick Bourne, right, pushes off against the Kansas City Chiefs' Charvarius Ward in the first half of Super Bowl LIV at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

AP

have to go through a season and it's going to be a lot harder to do—a lot harder," Shanahan said. "We can play a lot better and still not do what we did last time. That's why all of our guys have to take this challenge and we got to take advantage of this offseason and we got to still find a way to take a step ahead of other people because everyone is chasing us right now and it hasn't been that way."

Shanahan felt—and the first 3 ½ quarters of the Super Bowl seemed to prove—the 49ers were good enough to win a championship last season. But Shanahan warns that even if the 49ers are better this season,

it might not be reflected in an improved record or a Super Bowl title.

"We had as good of an opportunity as you can ever have to be a champion, and we came up just short. So that's by all means what we're going for this year," Shanahan said.

Bears WR picks Trubisky

It's merely one man's opinion, and he's new to the team, but Chicago Bears wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. went on NFL Network on Wednesday to say that he thinks QB Mitch Trubisky will end up as the team's starter.

Trubisky took a step back last season as the Bears fell

from hosting a playoff game in 2018 to going 8-8 in 2019. The Bears declined to pick up Trubisky's fifth-year option and traded for Nick Foles—along with his contract that has three years left on it.

That has led many to speculate that Trubisky might be beaten out by Foles whenever teams are allowed to report back to their facilities. But Ginn, who signed with the team this offseason, isn't seeming to buy into that line of thinking now.

Is that significant? Well, maybe.

Despite the team merely conducting online meetings to this point and Ginn not having

caught passes from either QB, it's entirely possible that he's sensed from coaches or teammates that Trubisky is going to get every chance to keep the job.

So from that perspective, it's notable. Of course, none of that really matters until the team gets on the field and actually wages a competition between the two. Still, it's interesting to hear Ginn issue his support for the incumbent, especially after Trubisky appeared last week to sense the urgency of his situation in Chicago.

Foles has started only 12 regular-season games over the past three seasons to Trubisky's 41, but the former also has led his Eagles teams to a 4-1 postseason mark (and a Super Bowl win) since 2017 while Trubisky's Bears were 0-1 in the playoffs. And that one loss came at home to Foles and the Eagles.

No 'dream seats'

There will be no "dream seats" at NFL stadiums this fall, even if fans are allowed in the stands.

The league plans to block off the first six to eight rows of every lower bowl section, including field-level suites, in order to help slow the spread of the coronavirus, according to Ben Fischer of the Sports Business Journal. Those sections will be tarped off, and teams will be given the option to sell signage to local sponsors that will be seen on TV.

According to the Sports Business Journal, the seats covered by tarps will look familiar to those in the English Premier League, which resumed its season last week with no fans.

On Tuesday, it was reported

that the NFL will not place a limit on capacity at games, allowing each individual team to make the decision themselves.

"Attendance will be a state-by-state, county-by-county thing," an anonymous NFL source said. "It will not be a one size fits all."

Both the Redskins and Ravens told NBC Sports Washington on Wednesday that they plan to follow state and local regulations to determine how many tickets (if any) they sell for home games this fall.

It'll be interesting to see how individual teams handle the ad space, but this is a smart move from a business standpoint.

Last month, NBC Sports Philadelphia's Dave Zangaro explored just how much money the Eagles will lose if the 2020 season is played without fans in the stadiums.

The Eagles stand to lose the ninth-most money of any team, per a Forbes analysis, at roughly \$204 million.

Based on numbers from the 2018 season, the NFL would lose \$5.5 billion in stadium revenue without fans in stadiums. Stadium revenue includes the total of ticket sales, concessions, sponsors, parking and team stores. The Eagles in 2018 were tied for eighth in the NFL with \$204 million in stadium revenue. Just the Cowboys, Patriots, Giants, Texans, Jets 49ers and Redskins made more."

Ad space on tarps won't make up that enormous gap, but considering more football fans than usual will be watching games on TV this fall, the ads won't come cheap. (AP/NBC)

Grand Slams plan ahead to avoid Djokovic fate

NEW YORK—Days after a handful of the world's leading tennis players hugged and high-fived on court in front of packed stands and partied together in carefree fashion some—including world No. 1 Novak Djokovic—were struck down by the COVID-19 virus.

As a cautionary tale, it could hardly be more stark.

For while the images from the Adria Tour exhibition tournament in Serbia and Croatia were no doubt a fillip for some fans starved of top-flight tennis action, the organizers also tempted fate with the lack of precautions.

Though the players were not breaking government protocols during the tournament, which was organized by Djokovic, it highlighted the risks of athletes from

different countries mingling without adhering to what have become social distancing norms.

Few were, therefore, surprised when Djokovic contracted the virus with Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, Croatia's Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki having already tested positive after playing in his Balkan event.

Hindsight offers clarity, but organizers of the world's biggest tournaments say they will not make the same mistakes as they reopen the sport and seek to keep the players safe.

"There were a fair few learnings that have come out of that (Adria Tour)," Tennis Australia's (TA) Chief Operating Officer Tom Larner told Reuters.

"And whilst, certainly the

whole event was actually really well-intentioned in terms of raising money for charity, the execution was clearly not great, as were the processes in place."

Australia had successfully curbed the virus spread but a double-digit increase in new cases recently has triggered fear of another wave due to apparent community transmission.

TA gave a glimpse of the biosecurity protocols that could be in place for next year's Australian Open while announcing measures for the domestic UTR Pro Tennis Series, which will be played at closed stadiums.

Players would have to bring their own towels and will be encouraged to shower off-site. On-court person-



nel would be limited to an umpire, minimal line judges with no ball-kids.

First up, though, will be the U.S. Open, scheduled to be held in New York from Aug. 31. Organizers have come under fire, including from Djokovic, who initially called their measures "extreme".

They will now feel vindicated. "This situation is exactly why we have created a comprehensive health and medical plan... that was approved by New York State," USTA spokesman Chris Widmaier said.

"The creation of a controlled U.S. Open environment, including official hotels, transportation, food, medical and safety protocols, enables us to mitigate potential risk, and appropriately respond to any issues." (AP/NBC)

As restart nears, 3 more players test positive for COVID-19



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The NBA expected positive coronavirus results to happen once players began undergoing mandatory tests, and three players revealed Wednesday they are dealing with COVID-19.

Indiana Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon and Sacramento Kings players Jabari Parker and Alex Len all said they have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Brogdon and Parker made announcements in the form of statements released by their teams. Len announced his status in an Instagram post. All three said they expect to be with their teams when the NBA season resumes at the Disney complex near Orlando, Florida, next month.

"I recently tested positive for the COVID virus and am currently in quarantine," Brogdon said in his statement. "I'm doing well, feeling well and progressing well. I plan to join my teammates in Orlando for the resumption of the NBA season and playoffs."

All 22 NBA teams that will be part of the resumed season began mandated testing Tuesday. League officials have expected that positive tests would be inevitable, and believed that starting a testing regimen now—roughly five weeks before games begin at Disney—will give players with positive results time to recover and get back with their teams before those contests start July 30.

"Several days ago I tested positive for COVID-19 and

immediately self-isolated in Chicago which is where I remain," Parker said in his statement. "I am progressing in my recovery and feeling well. I look forward to joining my teammates in Orlando as we return to the court for the resumption of the NBA season."

Len said his positive result came after a test taken in Sacramento on Tuesday. He said he "immediately entered isolation" and thanked the NBA "for putting the protocols in place to allow me to catch this early."

All teams will arrive at Disney between July 7 and July 9 to start a brief quarantine and training camp. The NBA is in the process of finalizing the game schedule for the resumed season.

Brogdon's case is not the first that the Pacers organization has



In this Feb. 3, 2020 file photo, Indiana Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon (7) drives against Dallas Mavericks forward Justin Jackson (44) during the second half of an NBA game in Indianapolis.

of cases per day, and Orange County in particular, where Orlando is located, has seen a serious uptick in cases.

To help keep players and staff safe, the NBA plans to protect them in a "bubble." No, not a literal bubble, but a figurative bubble that will limit players to hotels and game/practice facilities, with limited contact with non-essential staff.

But not everyone is so sure about how the NBA bubble will work, given the increase in COVID-19 cases nationwide.

The Athletic polled 10 of the 22 GMs whose teams are heading to Orlando, and some of them were less than optimistic.

One anonymous GM described the feeling of heading to the bubble as "Uncomfortable."

While the GMs praised Adam Silver for what he is doing and the safety protocols in place, there are still holes in the plan that could put players at risk.

For instance, Disney staffers on location, such as housekeeping, will not be required to stay in the bubble. They will come and go as they please, limiting contact with players in the process. Room cleaning will only be done when players are gone, but there is still risk.

It's hard to isolate when you are letting random people into the bubble.

Michelob Ultra sponsors Gold's Gym Challenge



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MARPAC Beverage sales manager James Lee, right, presents the check donation to Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister in support of the Gold's Gym Challenge 2020.

and measured to track progress. Aside from their sense of accomplishment and a slimmer self, the top individuals will be awarded cash and promotional prizes, which include a \$1,500 cash and in-kind donation courtesy of Michelob Ultra. Winners will be announced on July 1 and 2, and will receive their prizes at Gold's Gym Saipan.

The Gold's Gym Challenge has been an annual event for the CNMI since 2013 and serves as a great opportunity for companies and organizations to promote health and fitness among their employees by encouraging them to join and help support the competition. **(PR)**

In January 2020, Gold's Gym Saipan, with the support of Michelob Ultra, launched a three-month fitness campaign that aimed at changing lives in the Marianas.

The Gold's Gym Challenge

2020 offered contestants an opportunity to exceed their fitness goals, transform themselves, and earn a chance to win cash prizes.

Over a 12-week period, participants were photographed

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their education."

Del Rosario is set to graduate from Northern Kentucky University this December 2020. He will receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology.

"My family, career, and my passion for soccer are at the forefront of my priorities at this time in my life," Del Rosario said. "I want to build upon my skills and gain experience in my major here in the CNMI so I'm currently looking at companies where I can work as an intern. After a few years, I do intend to pursue a master's degree in my field."

When asked about his career in soccer, Del Rosario an-

swered "Soccer will always be a part of my life, so I also intend to pursue a professional career in soccer if given the opportunity." "Additionally, with the amount of support I've been receiving from the community in the CNMI, it's only right I give back. If there's always an opportunity to represent the CNMI for soccer, I will always step up to the challenge."

For students aiming to further their education, Del Rosario encouraged them to study and work hard because it will all pay off with the right mentors and strategy. However, he reminded them not to forget having fun and enjoying the memories they can make while in high school.

Del Rosario concluded by thanking his support system.

"First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the support I've received and continue to receive from my family. They have helped and guided me throughout my career, and for that, I'm grateful. Secondly, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to Mr. Jerry Tan, the staff of NMIFA, and all the coaches that I've had the pleasure of working with. They all have helped me become the player and person I am today. Lastly, I would like to thank the teachers who helped me prepare for college classes. My journey at Northern Kentucky wouldn't have been the same without their guidance and commitment."

To learn more about Mount Carmel School's athletic program, visit www.mountcarmel-saipan.com. **(PR)**

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will help schools train coaches and students and will also find ways to assist PSS in securing equipment for AirBadminton.

NMBA has been trying to grow the sport in the CNMI in hopes of encouraging the community to engage in a healthy and active lifestyle and tapping talents that could represent the CNMI in regional and international competitions.

Last year, NMBA had a historic feat, as it sent a team to the Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa for the first time. Also in 2019, NMBA reached out to students through BWF Shuttle Time, a program designed to bring badminton closer to schools by providing teachers and students free access to lesson plans, video clips, and technical information about the sport. CNMI National Team captain Nate Guerrero led NMBA players in visiting Agape Christian School and they conducted a clinic on the fundamentals of the sport and also played a few games with the students.



An Agape Christian School student serves, while his teammate gets ready for the next play during the Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Shuttle Time at the Agape Gymnasium in December last year. NMBA will help introduce AirBadminton to CNMI schools.

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No salary for
MLB players
opting out

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Bowl or bust

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AirBadminton in schools eyed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AirBadminton can be played in grass courts as shown in this photo from Badminton World Federation.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program director Nick Gross is considering adding AirBadminton to their roster of sports events for students.

Launched last year by Badminton World Federation and HSBC, AirBadminton is played outdoors with modified rules and has been gaining popularity across the globe because of its accessibility. Air-

Badminton can be played in hard, grass, and sand surfaces in parks, gardens, streets, playgrounds, and beaches.

"Due to the CNMI's overall lack of suitable venues for traditional badminton, AirB-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI National Team player Nate Guerrero demonstrates to Agape Christian School students the proper way to hold a racket during Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Shuttle Time at the Agape Gymnasium in December last year.

adminton may be the perfect fit for the CNMI," Gross said.

"We've recently begun discussions with Northern Marianas Badminton Association and Oceania Badminton as a possible addition to our School Year 2020-2021 sports offerings," the director added.

Though Gross is positive on the inclusion of AirBadmin-

ton to their calendar, he said they will take it slow as far as introducing the sport to the students is concerned because

of the challenges in bringing the needed equipment to the CNMI and the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm unsure of the rollout timeline as we will need to procure AirShuttle (modified shuttlecock that stands the wind in an outdoor court setting), rackets, and court hardware along with identifying individuals both in the community and in the PSS/private school family to coach," Gross said.

Once they got the things they need, Gross said AirBadminton will be offered to middle and high school students and games will be played in intramurals setting.

"Ideally, we'll be able to offer this opportunity to middle and high schools throughout the CNMI. Until the threat of COVID-19 has been reduced via vaccine, we will plan to play singles only and quite possibly as intramural programs as opposed to our traditional school vs school format. This will reduce the likelihood of infection as we will not need to transport students/coaches to and from other venues," Gross said.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said they



MCS recognizes alumnus Del Rosario



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's 2015 AlumKnight Enrico Del Rosario is seen here competing in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 against host Mongolia in 2018.

Mount Carmel School recognizes 2015 AlumKnight Enrico Del Rosario as he continues to excel as a student-athlete at Northern Kentucky University.

Before earning his high school diploma in 2015, Enrico Del Rosario started as an active member in the soccer community, representing the CNMI in international tournaments on several occasions. Playing for a collegiate level team did not seem possible to Del Rosario without the support of his family.

"My family has always been supportive of my passion for soccer. I come from a very athletic family," Del Rosario said. "My dad would record my soccer games and we cre-

ated a collection of footage to show mainland recruiters my abilities through a recruitment website. Without the support of my family and their efforts to assist me, I don't think I'd be at NKU."

"Enrico has always been one of Mount Carmel's most promising students," said

MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "It's one thing to have athletic ability, it's another to value and prioritize your education. It's not surprising to see how far Enrico has come and will continue to grow. One of the goals in our athletic program is to continue fostering students like Enrico who are dedicated to their sport but most especially

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